

THE FIRM OF GIRDLESTONE.

A ROMANCE OF THE UNROMANTIC.

BY A. CONAN DOYLE.

AUTHOR OF "MICHAEL CLARKE," "A STUDY IN SCARLET," ETC.

CHAPTER V.

MODERN ATHLETICS.

Edinburgh University may call herself with

justification the "alma mater" of her students,

but if she be a mother at all she is one of a very

heroic and Spartan cast, who conceals her maternal

affection with remarkable success. The only

signs of interest which she ever deigns to evince

towards her alumni are upon those not infrequent

occasions when guineas are to be demanded from

them. Then one is surprised to find how carefully

the old hen has counted her chickens, and how

promptly the demand is conveyed to each one of

the thousands throughout the empire who, in

spite of neglect, cherish a sneaking kindness for

their old college. There is symbolism in the very

look of her, square and massive, grim and grey,

with never a pillar or carving to break the dead

monotony of the great stone walls. She is learned,

she is practical, and she is useful. There is little

sentiment or romance in her composition, how-

ever, and in this she does but conform to the in-

stincts of the nation of which she is the youngest

but the most flourishing teacher.

A last coming up to an enlarged and enlight-

ened school. If he has passed through Harrow or Eton

there is no very abrupt transition between the

life which he has led in the sixth form and that

which he finds awaiting him on the banks of the

Cam and the Isis. Certain rooms are found for

students in the past, and will be by many in the

future. His religion is cared for, and he is

expected to put in an appearance at hall and at

chapel. He must be within bounds at a fixed

time. If he behave indiscreetly he is liable to

be punished, and he is reported by special officials,

ever his head. In return for all this his Univer-

sity takes a keen interest in him. She puts him on

the back if he succeeds. Prizes and scholarships

and fine fat fellowships are thrown plentifully in

his way if he will but gird up his loins and aspire

to them.

There is nothing of this in a Scotch University.

The young aspirant pays his pound, and finds

himself a student. After that he may do as he

absolutely what he will. There are certain classes

going on at certain hours which he may attend if

he chooses. If not, he may go to the library, or

the lecture room, or he may have a private

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then, lashing out with his left hand, came home

with a heavy thud on the place indicated. Dim-

dale smiled gently and shook his head.

"It won't do," he said.

"I hit my hardest," the other answered apolo-

getically.

"It won't do. Try again."

The visitor repeated the blow with all the force

that he could command.

Dimdale shook his head again despondently.

"You don't seem to catch it," he said. "It's

like this." He leaned forward, there was the

sound of a sharp clip, and the novice shot across

the room with a force that nearly sent his skull

through the panel of the door.

"That's it," said Dimdale mildly.

"Oh, it is, is it?" the other responded, rubbing

his head. "It's decidedly interesting, but I think

I would understand it better if I saw you do it to

some one else. It is something between the ex-

plosion of a powder magazine and a natural con-

vulsion."

His instructor smiled grimly. "That's the

only way to learn," he said. "Now we shall

have three minutes of give-and-take, and so ends

the morning lesson."

While this little scene was being enacted in the

lodgings of the student, a very stout little

man was walking slowly down Howe-street,

glancing up at the numbers upon the doors. He

was square and deep and broad, like a bottle of

Geneva, with a large ruddy face and a pair of

bright black eyes which were shrewd and critical,

and yet had a merry twinkle of eternal boyish-

ness in their depths. Bushy side whiskers, shot

with grey, flanked his rubeous visage, and he

threw out his feet as he walked with the air of a

man who is on good terms with himself and with

every one around him.

At No. 13 he stopped and rapped loudly upon

the door with the head of his metal-headed stick.

"Mrs. McTavish?" he asked, as a hard-lined,

angular woman responded to his summons.

"That's me, sir."

"Mr. Dimdale lives with you, I believe?"

"Third floor front, sir."

"Is he in?"

Suspicion shone in the woman's eyes. "Was it

about a bill?" she asked.

"A bill, my good woman! No, no, nothing of

the kind. Mr. Dimdale is my name. I am the

lad's father—just come up from London to see

him. I hope he has not been overworking him-

self."

A ghost of a smile played about the woman's

face. "I think not, sir," she answered.

"I almost wish I had come round in the after-

noon," said the visitor, standing with his thick

legs astride upon the door-mat. "It seems a pity

to break his chain of thought. The morning is

his time for study."

"Hush! I wouldn't fash about that."

"Well! well! The third floor, you say. He

did not expect me so early. I shall surprise the

dear boy at his work."

The landlady stood listening expectantly in the

passage. The sturdy little man plodded heavily

up the first flight of stairs. He paused on the

landing.

"Dear me!" he murmured. "Some one is

beating carpets. How can they expect poor Tom

to read?"

At the second landing the noise was much

louder. "It must be a dancing school," con-

jectured the doctor.

When he reached his son's door, however, there

could no longer be any doubt as to whence the

sounds proceeded. There was the stamp and

shuffle of feet, the hissing of drawn breath, and

an occasional soft taut, as if some one were

butting his head against a bale of wool. "It's

epilepsy," gasped the doctor, and turning the

handle he rushed into the room.

One hurried glance showed him the struggle

which was going on. There was no time to note

details. Some man was assaulting his Tom.

He sprang at the man, seized him round the waist,

dragged him to the ground, and seated himself

upon him. "Now be his hands," he said con-

quiescently, as he balanced himself upon the writ-

ing figure.

CHAPTER VI.

A RETROSPECT OF HIS SON, WHO WAS

half-choked with laughter, could explain to the

eccentric doctor that the gentleman upon whom

he was perched was not a dangerous lunatic, but,

on the contrary, a very harmless and innocent

member of society. When at last it was made

clear to him, the doctor released his prisoner and

was profuse in his apologies.

"This is my father, Garraway," said Dimdale.

"I hardly expected him so early."

"I must offer you a thousand apologies, sir."

The fact is that I am rather short-sighted, and

had no time to put my glasses on. It seemed to

me to be a most dangerous scuffle."

"Don't mention it, sir," said Garraway, with

great good humour.

"And you, Tom, you rogue, is this the way you

spend your mornings. I expected to find you

deep in your books. I told your landlady that I

hardly liked to come up for fear of disturbing you

at your work. You go up for your first profes-

sional in a few weeks, I understand?"

"That will be all right, and," said his son

demurely, "Garraway and I usually take a little

exercise of this sort as a preliminary to the

labours of the day. Try this armchair and have a

chance."

The doctor's eye fell upon the medical works

and the disarticulated skull, and his ill-humour

departed.

"You have your tools close at hand, I see," he

remarked.

"Yes, dad, all ready."

"Those bones bring back old memories to me."

I am rusty in my anatomy, but I dare say I could

stump you yet. Let me see, now. What are the

different foramina of the sphenoid? Eh?"

"Coming," yelled his son. "Coming!" and

dash out of the room.

"I didn't hear any one call," observed the

doctor.

"Didn't you, sir?" said Garraway, pulling on

his coat. "I thought I heard a noise."

"You read with my son, I believe?"

"Yes, sir."

"Then perhaps you can tell me what the

structures are which pass through the foramina

of the sphenoid?"

"Oh yes, sir. There is the—All right, Tom,

all right. Excuse me, sir! He is calling

me. The doctor vanished as precipitately as he

had done. The doctor sat alone,

puffing at his cigarette, and brooding over his own

idleness of bearing.

OUR OMNIBUS.

THE M.P.

There is one question of enormous importance in which the Ministerial mind does not appear to be made up. Is Southern Africa to remain under British rule, or to be handed over to the Boers? It is as certain as anything can be that the world will witness the formation of a set of Dutch republics on the ruins of British supremacy. I wish one could make sure that Lord Knutsford is sound on this vital matter. Of late, he has evinced a palpable disposition to subordinate imperial interests to those of Cape Colony, which is practically under Dutch governance. But he is only one member of the Cabinet, and I cannot believe that his colleagues would sanction an even worse and more damaging surrender than that of Majuba Hill.

It is a thousand pities that Lord Randolph Churchill still remains outside the Government. Of course he alone is to blame for that; his flighty conduct since resigning office aggravated his original offence. For all that and all that, there is no question that his accession to the Ministry would add to its prestige and weight among the constituencies. There are many working class electors who put more faith in Lord Randolph than in any other public man of the day. They entertain the same sort of personal feeling towards him that used to make them back Lord Beaconsfield through thick and thin.

Mr. Gladstone boasts that he has "spoken freely about allotments, the wide extension of which I desire." All very fine, but agricultural labourers will not forget that it was this pretended friend of theirs who shelved their claim as soon as he got into office, in order to make room for Home Rule. Mr. Gladstone is always prolific of good resolutions and grand promises when out of office, but once seated in power, he speedily consigns his pledges to the limbo of "ancient history."

Since the present Government came into office, about one-eighth of the total number of Parliamentary seats have been contested, with the result of a gain of 11 to the Gladstonians. If, therefore, the same proportion were observed at a general election, their gain would be 88 seats as compared with the result of the polling in 1886. But they would require many more to wipe off the Unionist majority of that day. The outlook, therefore, from the arithmetical standpoint is decidedly unfavourable to their chance of clambering into office. Moreover, the Liberal Unionists are now in a very different condition for fighting purposes to what they were, having taken steps to organise their electoral strength throughout the kingdom.

Prince Bismarck will not find it easy work to induce the Sultan to join the Triple Alliance. Like England, Turkey has splendid Asiatic possessions which are exposed to Russian attack, and as the Triple Alliance only concerns itself with the maintenance of peace in Europe, these territories would lie outside its protection. Why, then, should the Sultan give deadly umbrage to the powerful neighbour for the sole advantage of Germany, Austria, and Italy? A real league of peace covering Asia as well as Europe might obtain the adhesion of both England and Turkey.

A wealthy friend of mine is most anxious to get into the House of Commons. Not that his tastes or qualifications run in a Parliamentary direction. Fond of cultured society, much given to travelling, somewhat fastidious, devoid of personal ambition, and a poor speaker, he would not rise, or attempt to rise above the ordinary M.P. level. Yet he is resolved to contest constituency after constituency until he secures the object of his longing. He wants to be "in the swim," that is all. Numbers of his friends are in the House, and he wishes to join them.

Cyclists may rest their minds in peace about the proposed tax on their pastime. I can assure them that Mr. Goschen ridicules the idea of giving offence to half a million of Britons, mostly voters, for the sake of a pitiful addition to the revenue. So that vain alarm may be safely dismissed, and the wheeling world should now concentrate its energies on getting the law affecting cycles assimilated to the regulations for other conveyances. There are plenty of us in the House who would vote straight for that proposal, by reason of its fairness to all.

Lord Salisbury's health has so greatly improved, I understand, that the family no longer feel any anxiety about that score. The only danger is lest he should bring about a relapse by overwork. He is a desperately hard toiler at the desk, often labouring 14 or 15 hours almost at a stretch. The combined tasks of Prime Minister and Foreign Secretary would try the most adamant constitution, and his is by no means that character. Mr. Gladstone makes a much bigger show as a talking machine, but he is not in it with Lord Salisbury for prolonged brain work day after day and week after week.

OLD IZAAK.

The Reading and District Angling Association have lately been favoured with a consignment of carp, the magnificent gift of Mr. Henry Lane, of Wokingham. The fish, a nice size for stocking purposes, procured from the ponds of the Heath Farm, were carefully taken in large fish carriers by road, and placed in suitable waters in the Thames near Reading. This valuable addition to the stock of Thames fish should be greatly appreciated by all anglers, as carp are plucky fish, and grow to a large size. I have one in a case before me (which I caught on fine ledger tackle) weighing 13 lb., taking over two hours to land. I should much like to hear of other owners of property near the banks of our grand old river giving permission to the district preservation societies to remove a few fish from their well-stocked lakes and ponds.

"S. L. T."—Perch will now be found in shoals. The best method to adopt in fishing for them will be with a fine gut paternoster. The construction of the paternoster tackle is very simple. Take a yard and a half of gut for the main length; after well soaking in cold water so as to soften it, make a loop at each end, the lower one to permit easier attachment of the bait; then make two small loops, one about eight inches above the lead loop, and the other about fifteen inches above it. Never use more than two hooks (No. 5 round bend will be found to answer best); the gut links should be six inches long, of the finest undrawn gut. Bait with a minnow on the top hook, and a small eelworm on the lower one.

"P. O."—Yes, I have heard lampreys are good bait for barbel during the winter months, but I have never given this a trial myself. Some five winters ago a member of the Richmond Piscatorialists caught ten very large barbel with this bait (averaging over 8 lb. each), fishing under Teddington Weir.—"W. L."—You can easily dry your running line by simply pulling it off the reel and letting it remain in coils on the floor for some hours. The only machine I know of for the purpose is made by Farlow, of the Strand.—"A. C."—The best roes for jack fishing on the Lower Thames are Laicham and Chertsey. I should advise you to try the former, fishing with Alfred Harris.—"J. S."—The best book on the subject is "The Practical Management of Fisheries," by Francis Francis.

Last week, in company with two friends of mine, I had a novel experience in a blank day's jack fishing in private water. The park is one I have had the privilege of fishing in for several years past, always getting good sport, my best days for a Friday and a Saturday being forty-two and thirty-three fish respectively. We found the

water, on our arrival at ten o'clock, a good colour and nice height, and commenced operations with live bait, using snap tackle; after trying this for some time without success, we shifted to spinning tackle, but with no better result. Four o'clock, and not a single run had rewarded our efforts, when one of the old men employed on the estate came up and informed us we might as well fish on the grass, as the most was drained dry some two months ago on account of some drainage works, and all the fish were transferred to a pond some distance off. In another part of the park, the old boy seemed to imagine it was a good joke. We did not.

In reply to my correspondent, "An Ardent Angler's" questions, "Where was Isaac Walton born? What profession was he? How old was he at his death?" Isaac Walton was born at Stafford, on August 9th, 1593, and is generally believed to have been in business as a linen-draper and hosier in a house on the north side of Fleet-street, two doors west of Chancery-lane. Soon after he attained the age of fifty he retired from business upon a small fortune, and lived sometimes at his native town, but seems to have spent most of his time visiting friends, most of whom were great divines of that time. He died on the 15th December, 1683, aged 90 years, at Winchester, in the house of Dr. Hawkins, a prebendary of the Church. He was buried at Winchester.

The water of the Thames, which was getting a nice colour on Tuesday, came down thick again on Wednesday, but without a further downpour will be in splendid order for all-round angling by the time this is in the hands of my readers. The rise of water (nearly two feet), and consequently accelerated pace of the stream, should induce the chub to seek shelter under the boughs, where they ought now to be fished for, using brains for throwing in and bullock's pith on the hook. The tidal portion of the Thames has been affording some excellent sport with roach and dace, bags of 20 lb. to 30 lb. per punt for a day's fishing being frequent, the fish being a good size. A fine jack was captured at Boxmoor-on-the-Lea by Captain Williams. The fish measured 8 ft. in length and weighed 13 lb. 8 oz. It had evidently broken away from some less fortunate angler, as a swivel and hook were found in it.

PIPER PAN.

If my very complimentary correspondent, "W. J. S." of Bromfield-road, E., will tell me precisely what are the difficulties he finds in adjusting new reeds to his clarinet, I shall be happy to give him the necessary information. I may take this opportunity to observe that "clarinet"—and not "clarinet"—is the orthography adopted by the best authorities. The French write "clarinette," the Germans "Klarinette," the Italians "clarinetto." The English adopted, as a second title, "clarinet," which they derived from "clarion," a trumpet, because there is some similarity between the lower notes of the clarinet and those of a trumpet; but "clarinet" is the proper spelling.

Adeline Patti was in fine voice on Monday last, when she sang at the Albert Hall for the last time but one before her departure for America, where she will be the "star" of the Italian opera-company organised by Mr. Abbey. Amongst the songs she sang on Monday was "Robin Adair," which is described in the programmes and advertisements as a "Scottish ballad." It is nothing of the kind. Robert Burns wrote the words of "Robin Adair" to one of the oldest Irish melodies, known as "The Green Arden."

Patti often sings, as a "Scottish" song, "Twas Within a Mile of Edinburgh Town," but this is a distinctly English song. It was composed by an Englishman, James Hook (father of Theodore Hook), and was first sung in public to an English audience at Vauxhall Gardens. I think that, considering how many beautiful melodies are to be found in the repertory of genuinely Scotch music, our Northern fellow-countrymen should abstain from claiming the two songs above-mentioned, and also Robert Smith's "Jessie, the Flower of Dumbland," as Scottish melodies.

Covent Garden Theatre was crowded on Monday last, when Mr. Freeman Thomas gave his eightieth anniversary concert. Mr. Sims Reeves and many other popular artists assisted, and the famous tenor was enthusiastically applauded. His first song, "The Macgregors' Gathering," was followed by such persistent demands for its repetition that he re-appeared on the platform and sang "The Jolly Young Waterman." A repetition of his second song, "The Bay of Biscay," was also demanded, but in vain. The tumult which followed lasted over ten minutes, but was finally quieted by the announcement that Mr. Sims Reeves had left the theatre.

The enthusiastic reception given to Mr. Freeman Thomas was fully merited. Throughout the past season he has provided admirable concerts and has engaged almost all of our best native artists. The Wednesday "classical" concerts have deservedly attracted crowds of music-lovers, including many of our most distinguished musicians, and I have before me a list of the orchestral works produced during the season, amongst them being the finest symphonies, concertos, and overtures of Haydn, Mozart, Beethoven, Schubert, Mendelssohn, Weber, Rossini, Auber, Chopin, and other great masters.

The Royal Choral Society will next Wednesday perform Dr. C. V. Stanford's "Voyage of Magellan" and Dr. Hubert Parry's "Ode on St. Cecilia's Day." I may venture to remind my readers that these were the two works which I named as the best produced at the Leeds Festival, and I can assure them that both are well worth hearing.

Madame Marie Rose, I am happy to say, is gradually recovering from the effects of her recent accident, and expects to resume her professional avocations a week hence. I called on her a few days back, and could not but admire the fortitude with which she submitted to the inevitable. She has purchased an estate near Orleans, and is building a stately chateau on the site of an ancient castle, which has been pulled down for that purpose. It will not be ready for occupation until 1892, when she will retire from the profession she has long adorned.

The chamber concert of the students of the R. A. M., on Monday last, at St. James's Hall, afforded gratifying proof of the progress made under their able teachers, but I cannot refrain from expressing regret at the inclusion in the programme of "Variations for two pianofortes on a Theme by Beethoven," written by Mons. St. Saens, and a similar impertinence in Liszt's distortion of Bach's "Prelude and Fugue in A minor."

The London Symphony Concerts, directed by Mr. Hanslick, will recommence, St. James's Hall on Thursday next, under the able management of Mr. Vert. Sir Charles Hallé will, on Friday, November 22nd, give the first of four orchestral concerts at St. James's Hall, with his full Manchester band of 100 performers. Lady Hallé will play Beethoven's violin concerto.

Last Monday's popular concert was highly enjoyable, but I regretted to find most of the shining orchestra seats unoccupied. The stalls were better attended, but I fear that many of the subscribers take stalls because it is the correct thing to do, and it is no uncommon thing to see two or three of them sound asleep during the performance of classic masterpieces. A portly gentleman in a stall near mine fell sound asleep and dropped his analytical programme on the floor. At the end of the Mozart quartet he was awakened by the loud applause, and began to clap his hands vigorously.

If it be true that the directors of the Italian opera at Her Majesty's Theatre will forbid the acceptance, by any of their artists, of bouquets thrown on to the stage during any operative performance, sensible people will rejoice. The throwing of bouquets interrupts the performance, and the bouquets are generally paid for by those

to whom they are proffered. I can give an instance.

A few years back I went to Covent Garden Arcade to purchase a bouquet. Madame X, an artist whose popularity had begun to wane, left the florist's shop just before I entered it. I asked the price of one of the bouquets in the window and pronounced it too dear, adding, "I don't believe you charge so much to Madame X." The florist replied, "No, sir; but Madame X. has ordered a dozen; it is her benefit night."

BUCKLAND, JUNIOR.

In reference to the snake story which appeared last week, Mr. C. E. Mitchell, who, I hope, will favour us again, sends a highly interesting communication. This gentleman, while in India, has seen numbers of cobras, and is of opinion that all the poison at the immediate command of the snake issues from the fangs at the first bite, the second proving harmless. If such is indeed the case, it shows clearly why only one of Mr. Bateman's dogs suffered from the contest. Mr. Mitchell puts forward the following case in support of his theory. He was once invited to witness a certain remedy which a Brahmin priest near Bombay claimed to possess for cobra bite. A splendid cobra had been caught and confined in an egg-shaped pit about three feet deep, covered with a large flower-pot. When the time arrived the pot was broken, and the cobra uplifted his head. A jungly dog, who had been captured for the purpose, was lowered down by a chain. The cobra bit him, he was hauled up, and the antidote was forced down his throat. In a few minutes he was dead. The second dog was then let down and also bitten. Next morning he was alive and well, and continued so afterwards.

Now, in the above anecdote, it is most improbable that the antidote cured the dog. If it had any efficacy the Brahmin would long ago have made his fortune by it and its fame would have spread far and wide. The inference, therefore, is that the cobra's poison had been temporarily exhausted. Of course, before long it would regain its former virulence. I have often before heard the idea suggested with regard to adders and all manner of poisonous snakes, at all events, that the strength of the poison was greatly diminished by a second bite. It seems most natural that it should be so, and that it would take some time for the poison to be secreted in the glands which are reserved for that function.

Mr. Mitchell also tells of a dog who was courageous enough to attack a cobra. It was a greyhound—a kind of dog not usually noted for pluck—and one day, while walking in the jungle with its master, it suddenly sprang forward at a large serpent of this species that was in the act of darting at the gentleman. The dog seized it, was bitten, and died a few minutes afterwards, thereby saving its master's life at the expense of its own.

The correspondent who sent me an interesting account of a wonderfully prolific canary, writes to say that unfortunately the last batch of eggs were not productive. Still, the number of eggs which she laid this year is very great, and there seems every prospect of her continuing in the same manner. It is extraordinary that the Calcutta Zoo should not be more popular with the natives. The collection is a really fine one, including, among other celebrities, a baby rhinoceros lately born in the gardens. Yet the total number of visitors to the gardens is only a little over 100,000, or not per annum is only a little over 100,000, or not much more than attend the Regent's Park Zoo on the four bank holidays. This is all the more surprising when one remembers how passionately fond Asiatics are of gazing upon wild animals in captivity. A private menagerie is quite a common adjunct to the Indian princes' palaces.

A Midland farmer who is down upon wasps reports in a local paper that during the past summer he caught and destroyed 21,770 of the little winged tigers on his holding, besides blowing up ten nests. The method of capture was to place about bottle partly filled with either hot water and sugar, beer, or cider, grease being rubbed inside the necks. Perhaps if the destroyer were to balance the value of the time expended on this business against the loss likely to have been caused by the wasps had they remained alive, he would find himself a considerable loser. It is only in fruit gardens and orchards that wasps do much harm to man's pecuniary interests.

For a Viceroyal bag, Lord Lansdowne's two-day shooting at Dromie the other day wears a poor appearance. The trophies consisted of seven hawks, deer, two gnu—another species of deer—four peacocks, fourteen chikar partridges, a dozen mongooses, and one wildcat. A varied bag, truly, but the previous generation of Anglo-Indian sportsmen would have sniffed contemptuously at it. They rarely wasted powder and shot on such common things as peacocks and chikar, while they would have considered it beneath their dignity to pot cats and mongooses.

The tender solicitude of a tigress for her whelps is illustrated in a touching little story which reaches me from a friend in India. A native soldier, armed only with a sword and shield, was crossing a watercourse just before dark, when a tigress with two cubs suddenly blocked the way. The man wisely took up a position of defence alone, hoping that the family would pass by. But one of the cubs went for him, and he was making ready to give it a slash, when mamma seized the naughty little one and dragged it out of harm's way. Thrice did this occur, before the noise made by approaching party of villagers released the soldier from his persecutors.

Mr. J. Stone wants to know whether it is common for fish to feed from the hand. He has had some carp for about three months, and they have at last learnt to do so. I do not think it is difficult to tame fish to such an extent that they will take morsels of food from your fingers, so long as you have a moderate amount of patience and do not frighten them by any sudden movement. I have had carp, tench, minnows, perch, and others which have done so.

In answer to Mr. Nichols, who has a tame hawk, I may say that, though they are not very easy to keep in captivity, still it is not rare for such to be done.

"Pelham" wishes for some information about the management of an aquarium. In the first place, beware of overstocking. Half a dozen minnows, about the same number of small gold fish, some small bronze carp, and a few other fish might be kept in the space he mentions. By all means, and anachronisms are about the best kinds, and are readily obtainable. Clearly, the tank is as seldom as possible. If the tank is not over-crowded, and the balance between animal and vegetable life is properly sustained, much cleansing is not needed, and is, indeed, baneful. A few water snails may be kept with advantage.

THE ACTOR.

I was much struck at the Grand on Monday by the good judgment with which the pit and gallery distributed their applause. The play was "Adrienne Lecouvreur," by no means a piece of the "popular" sort, and yet it was welcomed in the most judicious fashion. The original French drama, by Scribe and Legouvé, was first seen in Paris in 1849, with the famous Rachel in the title part, which was a great favourite with her and the one in which she made her farewell of the stage. Orla years Madame Bernhardt has had it in her repertory, and Ristori has also appeared in it, in an Italian version.

That "Aunt Jack" should have reached and passed its 100th night will have surprised no one who has seen it. I witnessed it for the second time the other evening, and was as delighted with it as ever. Mr. Fred Mervin is now the explosive Colonel, but otherwise the cast is as it was at first. Mr. Arthur Cecil has added sundry little bits of *hy-play* which are very effective, but I am

inclined to think that the most artistic bit of work in the piece is done by Mr. Weedon Groves, who, as the much-ast-on country solicitor, is really side-splitting.

I did not waste my time over "Noughtology" at St. George's Hall on Tuesday, but I know something of the lady—Mrs. Albert Bradshaw—who was so unwise as to undertake the leading female part in that extraordinary production. She is the wife of one of the former owners of the Nottingham Daily Journal, and has made some general reputation as a novelist and some local reputation (I believe) as an amateur actress. I am told that the rôle she represented on Tuesday is an abnormally long one.

The presence of Mr. and Mrs. Tree and of Miss Genevieve Ward at Wednesday's matinee at the Criterion could readily be accounted for. The chief performer that afternoon—Miss Elizabeth Robins—lately did proxy for Mrs. Tree in "A Man's Shadow" on one occasion, and Miss Robins has more than once acted with Miss Ward. She is an American lady, but without the American accent. She tells me she went straight from school on to the stage, having previously been to the theatre only twice in her life. She is likely to make her mark upon the London boards.

The English stage very nearly lost its most popular ingénue the other day. Miss Annie Hughes's parents are staying at Brighton just now, and on Tuesday the young artist went for a ride on the Downs. Alas! her horse tried to run away with her—that is her fault for being so charming!—and it was with difficulty that Miss Hughes could curb her steed's impetuosity.

Miss Ruth Rutland, who made her London debut at the Strand on Thursday afternoon, in Mrs. W. H. Crossland, and has been touring in the provinces for a year past, gaining some experience before appearing before a metropolitan audience. Little Miss Florence Tanner, who made her London debut at the Criterion on Wednesday afternoon, is, I am told, not yet fifteen. I remember hearing her recite one day at the Steinway Hall. She is pretty and promising.

"Three hundredth night of 'Paul Jones'."—"Two hundredth night of 'Doris'."—We don't think much of that sort of thing nowadays, but how our grandfathers would have stared! "Paul Jones" seems "in" for a prolonged run, in spite of the loss sustained when Mr. Wyatt's illness compelled him to resign his part. "Doris," if ever a new libretto is written for it, may some day have the success which the music deserves. How much to be pitied is the composer whose work is weighed down by that of his dramatic collaborator.

The masquerade, if they like to travel up to Islington next week, will once more be able to gaze upon the divinites of the touring Gaiety company "Faust Up to Date," with Miss St. John, Mr. Longen, and Miss Addie Conyers, is due at the Grand on Monday, and will remain there for ten nights—till the 21st inst. (inclusive). It is to be hoped that Miss St. John will be well enough to appear. Her place in the cast has been taken during the past few days by Miss Grace Pedley, her under-study, who, at Birmingham, has met with many encomiums.

They are no respecter of persons in America. One dramatic "critic" there, referring to Mrs. Kendal's first appearance before an American audience, says, "She stood bowing as placid and plump and sleek as a very fine rabbit!" Conceivably an English journalist writing in that fashion! However, all the pressmen are thoroughly enthusiastic over both Mrs. and Mrs. Kendal, so a little eccentricity of taste and expression may be allowed to them.

A correspondent asks me to say whether Mr. David James is alive or not; he fancies he read somewhere that Mr. James had gone over to the majority. I am happy to say that Mr. James is not only alive, but very much so, as may be seen any evening by purchasing a seat at the Criterion Theatre.

GENERAL CHATTER.

It is not quite easy to understand why a baronetcy should have been conferred on the ex-Lord Mayor. No one will grudge him the honour, but in these matters a certain fitness ought to be observed, and the public memory will not fail to recall many lord mayors of quite equal qualifications who retired from office without handles to their names. Alderman Whitehead's most conspicuous achievements were the organisation of the Volunteer equipment fund and the part he took in the "darkies' strike." The former was open to the grave objection that it called upon public charity to make good the default of the State; of the latter, it may be said that the one-sided interference of the Mansion House in industrial disputes was a very regrettable new departure.

A spectacle presented itself to me last Sunday morning on my way to Kirk which would have made an admirable subject for the gifted brush of Mr. Long. In front of a contingent of Salvationists marched, or rather danced, a line of "lepers," some sportive, free-limbed, and rollicking. The wild dances of their movements, their light springy movements, their bright eyes, rosy cheeks, and wind-tossed hair, contrasted strongly with the staid and solemn demeanour of the bilious-looking saints who followed at their heels.

At some stations on the District Railway a broad margin of whitewash now runs along the outer edge of the platforms, the purpose being to show alighting passengers where to place their feet. It is decidedly a step in the right direction, and the Undergound. Sometimes the lamps burn so dimly as to leave the platforms in semi-darkness, and near-sighted people are liable to step on the very edge of the platform when getting in or out, a proceeding not unaccompanied by danger.

London has just cause to be proud of St. Paul's School. From an educational point of view it now stands a long way first among the public schools of the United Kingdom. That fact comes out quite clearly on surveying the nature of its successes during the last scholastic year. The school won by far the most University scholarships; it beat all the other public schools in the London University matriculation examination; it was a very close second to Eton in the Oxford and Cambridge certificate examination; and it took the first place, beating all the crammers, in the Indian Civil Service competition. Truly, a wonderful record, considering that there are not quite 600 boys at the school. Nor is this its marvellous success exceptional; for the last three years St. Paul's has topped the tree.

There is no toiler more deserving of pity than the 'busman and tramcar man. It really pains me when returning home late at night to see the intense weariness of these men; the last journey is evidently a cruel trial to their powers of endurance. Whatever the financial difficulties may be, common humanity demands an abridgement of their hours of toil. It does not rest with me to say how this reform could be effected; I simply take my stand on the broad ground that a service which causes such terrible physical exhaustion requires to be amended.

Superficially-minded folks may possibly conclude, from the recent strength-testing exhibitions at the Aquarium, that England is not in it with continental nations in producing strong men. That would be an egregious misconception; scientifically trained men of Anak for exhibition purposes. Some time ago, when walking through a Surrey lane one Sunday morning, I came upon three agricultural labourers. As they looked to be jolly fellows, I entered into conversation, and conciliated their esteem by sharing the contents of my bacy pouch among them. All were big men, but two were quite dwarfed by the third.

A regular Hercules, standing fully six feet four or five in his stockings, and a mass of solid muscle from head to foot. There was a great rock lying by the side of the road, which I could not more try as I might, nor were the two smaller men much more successful. But the big fellow hoisted it without the slightest difficulty, held it out at arm's length in one hand, and then sent it whirling through the air to a considerable distance. I doubt whether either Sandow or Samson could have performed the wonderful feat.

The Prince of Wales seems determined to show that his military rank as field marshal is not purely honorary. At the Cairo review he acquitted himself as a genuine warrior by taking command of the troops, and leading the line in person to where the Khedive was stationed. The report further says that the prince gave the word of command in a "sharp tone," so that he must have been practising it on the sly. His usual tones are the reverse of sharp, being as full of kindness as his good-natured face.

Some mild betting is taking place as to the length of time that Barnum's great show will run at Olympia, and the number of admissions before it closes. I would venture a confident prophecy that it will still be going on at this time next year. Crowded houses are safe up to the end of February, to begin with; then there may be a bit of a lull, but as soon as the season begins the rush will be greater than ever. However great his success, the illustrious showman will deserve it every bit for his pluck in going to such enormous expense before taking a single farthing. He is a most genial old gentleman, and the public may rely upon it that the fault will not lie with him if they are not made thoroughly comfortable.

MR. WHEELER.

What is a "practical cyclist?" There are certain writers who seem to imagine that this term only applies to the select few who, in addition to being experts on wheels, are intimately acquainted with every minute detail of cycle mechanism. Halderdash! As well might it be contended that no one is entitled to be considered a practical horseman who does not possess an intimate knowledge of equine anatomy. To my way of looking at the matter, there is no occasion whatever to graduate as a blacksmith to become a practical wheelman. Surely a rider who makes cycling a practice is practical and not merely theoretical.

In connection with the more general habit of dismounting at the bottom of hills, instead of riding up them, *Wheeling* propounds the question, "Are the men inferior or are they lazier than in the last generation?" Neither the one nor the other; they are more experienced and, perhaps, more sensible. Having found that any slight gain of time resulting from riding up hills is dearly purchased by the consequent exhaustion of strength, they save themselves by shirking the hill, however, with our excellent contemporary that this policy of skirting the collar is sometimes carried to ridiculous extremes. The wheelman who dismounts at the foot of a moderate incline almost deserves to be called a "practical cyclist."

Could any reader oblige me with information about the "monocycle," which burst forth on an astonished world some years ago, and vanished with equal celerity? So far as my recollection goes, the oddity was a gigantic wheel with the rider in the centre, looking like a spider in its web, and I think the debut was made at Brighton. But my memory may be somewhat astray.

The West Roads Club deserves credit for its pluck in bringing off a road race so late in the year as the 2nd of November. Luckily, the day proved fine, and the surface was tolerably hard. But had Sunday's deluge fallen a bit sooner, the competitors would have had a desperately trying time. I am glad to hear that the club is progressing; it bids fair to develop into one of the most important cycling organisations within metropolitan boundaries. The Tuesday evening gatherings would be found most enjoyable by young athletes and others who are at a loss how to spend their time after dark. There is a little of everything going on.

County court judges may well be puzzled sometimes by the very conflicting nature of the evidence in cycle cases. One set of witnesses will swear that no better machine could be made than the one whose merits are in question; a equal number on the other side will affirm, with similar emphasis, that it is nearly worthless. It is not easy to make sense of these contradictory testimonies. No one would be so uncharitable as to impute venality to either side; it is more likely that an unconscious bias influences their minds and colours their views. Were I on the judgment seat, I should be inclined to discard experts' evidence, by reason of its generally being dominated by partisan feeling.

It is very noticeable what a large proportion of the few machines yet on the road are good old ordinaries. Why this should be the case passes my comprehension, unless it be that the safety of the few who would be smothered with mud from that point of view that he is undoubtedly has an immense advantage, and was a winter rider I should be inclined to keep one in my stable for use between October and April.

The late exceedingly damp weather renders it incumbent on cyclists to overhaul their machines to see whether any rust is forming. If taken in time, no harm occurs; but once let the surface be eaten into, and no amount of rubbing or polishing will restore its integrity. Even in the house, rust will sometimes set up, especially in rooms on the basement. The cyclist, too, so much time on his hands during winter that he is undoubtedly has neglected those kindly attentions to his steed which are necessary to keep it in good health.

The powers that be would do well to consider whether the time has not arrived to make an end of the "safety-bar" boycott. If for no other reason, its conspicuous failure to secure a monopoly of cups for the ordinary champions disentitles it to a place in the "practical politics" of cycling. As for the alleged danger of "mixes," it exists in the imagination of the would-be monopolist.

That wonderful invention which was to have given a hind seat to every machine on the road still remains to be disclosed. When last heard from, the inventor announced that it would be made public in two or three weeks. That day of grace expired long ago, and as the Nonpareil makes no sign of existence, I am disposed to regard it as a sort of Mrs. Harris. Improvements of existing models are much more likely than startling novelties. None of the more recent "new things" have caught on with the public.

QUITE ENOUGH BEGGARS OF OUR OWN.

Pietro Rizzio, aged 12, tripple with crutches, who gave an address in Pear Tree-alley, Fulham, was charged at the West London Police Court with begging in High-street, Kensington.—Detective Dew said he had seen the boy begging on several occasions. He found upon him a sixpence and 1s. 4d. in bronze. He was informed that the boy had been brought from Italy by another Italian, who sent him out to beg. The Italian was in the habit of receiving 5s. 6d. a day from the boy, and had purchased a new organ out of the money, but he had not been out with it for several months, as he received sufficient from him to keep him and his family. On the 3rd inst. witness saw the Italian, who was dressed in a new suit of clothes and had a watch and chain. He stated that the boy gave him 3s. on the 2nd inst. —Mr. Plowden observed that if the officer had any evidence to bear out the statement it was a case which required severe notice. He remanded the boy to the workhouse, and directed a summons to issue against the Italian. He also gave instructions to communicate with the Italian consul, in order to have the boy sent back to Italy.

CLIPPINGS FROM THE COMICS.

(From Moonshine.)
 Sir William Harcourt has pronounced for the Salvationists. Lucky "general!" Another thick "un!"
 Another Irish testimonial is announced. All the martyrs seem to get testimonials in turn. This is as it should be. If the "brutal Balfour" must take his breeches away, at least let him find that there is something in the pockets.
 Sir Robert is still very cross about Brighton. Let us respect his feelings. Poor Peel! He has been checked; why should he be trod upon?
 AN EARLY ACQUAINTANCE.—Maudie: Auntie took me to Brighton. Do you know Brighton, Reggie?—Reggie: Know Brighton! Why I went there to be born!

"Here, Freddy, there's a nice book about a good, kind missionary, who was killed by the wicked savages." "Thanks, mama. Do you have to read for before they kill him?"

THE GADSDONIAN PROFESSOR OF FAITH.
 (Slightly that of Maudie.)

There is no God but Parnell, Gladstone is his Prophet, The Daily News is his Koran.

This is the true faith in which only can salvation be found, as hath been testified by many Separatists.

"The Cambrone lambs," they call Mr. Conboy's admirers, who have behaved so blackguardly at the Unionist meetings. It is about time for Conservatives to organise a political police, for self-defence, against our advocates of free speech who refuse to allow it. In the meantime, will any naturalist be good enough to tell us if there is any connection between the lambs of Cambrone and the fleece of Derry?

THE LADY GUIDES AND THE G.O.M.—The lady guides have been so successful, and have had so many testimonials from delighted foreign visitors, that we record an instance of failure with much reluctance. Asked by electors of Brighton, who were wavering between Unionist and Gladstonian views, to enlighten them as to the Home Rule policy of Mr. Gladstone, the ladies were compelled to admit their inability to offer any guidance. On every other subject they were proficient, but they shrewdly hinted that their failure might be owing to the fact that Mr. Gladstone had no policy. Whereupon the electors, earnestly thanking the ladies, voted "solid for the Union."

CAVE CANEM!

Oh, Dr. Joseph Parker, You're a tremendous barker! And if your bite Is equal quite, You must have teeth like Carke's.

Your skill at advertising, And all the world advising, Barmum can't dog. If not a dog,

You're good at dog-matting!

No doubt your stentor yap 'll fill—if not space—your chapel You're always game To shout—like Fame— And with all foes to grapple.

Were ever you a puppy?

Great gun, with bore quite Krupp,

Your roar's a high art— Then you're as smart As the young man named Guppy.

There's nothing in creation Escapes your observation.

You ought to take You straight, and make You watch-dog of the nation!

Then how you'd bark! Sense urges Us to the step. It verges On madness not To make a lot Of such a Bonaparte!

No muzzle then, no fetter On sermon, speech, or letter! (Maudie: One thing "log")

"Brag's a good dog, But Holdfast is a better!")

(From Punch.)

A SOFT ANSWER.—"Jane, I saw that policeman speak to you this morning. I can't allow that!"—"No, ma'am. But the policeman always do admire baby so—they can't 'elp stoppin' and askin' about 'im. They all say as they never see such a fine child!"

CHILL OCTOBER.—Fair Lady: What beautiful chrysanthemums you've got, Sir Gorgius!—Sir Gorgius (who is a botanist): A—yes. I flatter myself they're not bad—considering the time of year!

HOSPITALITY.—Hospital Physician (with a view to diagnosis): What do you think?—New Patient (cheering up at the prospect): Oh, sir!—thank you, sir—when I leave that to you, sir!

CURIOUS ASSOCIATION OF IDEAS.—On the day that the report of the settlement of the Miss Phyllis Broughton v. Dangan breach of promise case for £2,500 appeared in the papers, the advertised programme of the Covent Garden Concerts contained this item of attraction: "Mr. John Voysey will sing this evening, 'Phyllis is My Only Joy!' and 'Good-bye, Swallowtail' (Gaston)." Certainly—a good finish; hat on, and walk off.

OTHELLO'S OCCUPATION'S GONE.—Now that the annual licensing day is past, and the music hall inspection is off, and what a dull time the Muck Duggall must be having! He will have to take up the drains again. Yes, to be sure.

STORIES BY BRET HARTE.—Every reciter, amateur and professional, will do well to master them, as he is expected to know "stories by heart."

(From Judy.)

NOT VERY WOOLY!—Hoay: It can never be. You are so much higher than I in station, Lord Verriene.—Lord Verriene: Verriene! But, Woay—don't call me Lord Verriene, call me Woay— I love you Woay and honorably. It's no fault of mine that I'm a lord, and above you in station. Oh, I wish I'd been born a shoeblack! Then, p'waps you'd think me your equal—no, no!

THE VERNACULAR OF THE EATING-HOUSE.—Old Gentleman: I'll have a nice ramp steak, waiter—rather underdone—and potatoes and greens; and after that I'll have a—let me see—yes—an apple dumpling.—Waiter: Yessir. (Hawls "off") Steak under and veggie; dump to foler.

A NEW BEGINNING OF THE SEASON!—Jovial Huntsman (turning up three-quarters of an hour late, with only two or three couple of hounds, to master): Fine hunting morning, shurr. "Oundish fine comin'—tistin' for bloodish—horashish fresh—menash very fith."

THE FRIEND OF THE SAILOR.—Here's good luck to Mr. Pimms! He is on the warpath again on behalf of the sailor, and he may very well be trusted to expose any crooked little ways "they have got in the Navy." The successes he has already achieved are feathers in his cap; indeed, he might say it is a case of tail and feathers! Let ships be what they will, Mr. Pimms! the championship of the seafarer will always go down—with the Englishman, and it ought to make the powers that be see fairer than they do at present.

A SOCIETY OF QUACKS.—First Horny-handed Son of Toil: Bill, wot's a haristocrat?—Second Horny-handed Son of Toil: A haristocrat? Wy, any cove wot's got more brass nor we have.

A MOVING SCENE.—The diorama.

(From Fun.)

A RECOMMENDATION.—Miss Prettypet: Hallo, Tommy, so they've put you in knickerbockers. Do you like them?—Tommy: Awfully. They're lots better than frocks; why don't you take 'em?

Oh!—First Super: Now, Joey, what's the difference between our dinner and the Lord Mayor's banquet?—Second Super: A blessed lot, I should say—but I give it up.—First Super: Not much; ours is a bloater, and his is a blow-out.

EXULTATION!—SHE HAD SO OFTEN HAD THE

BETTER OF HIM.—Miss Fieldfare: Aren't you going in for the brush to-day, cousin Talboys?—Cousin Talboys: No, not to-day.—Miss F.: What have you put yourself in pink for, then?—Cousin T.: I'm expecting a fellow from town to paint my portrait.—Miss F.: I thought you said you weren't going in for the brush?—Cousin T. (triumphantly): No more I am; it's the brush that's going in for me!

NEEDLEWORK EXTRAORDINARY.—When a sea captain knits his brows and hems! the sailors know that he is going to darn their eyes.

WHY IS MR. AUGUSTUS HARRIS A UNIONIST?—Because he objects to the dismemberment of "The Empire."

(From Funny Folks.)

GIVING THEM A DANCE.—On being interrogated as to his health on his arrival here, Mr. Barnum is said to have danced a hornpipe, "greatly to the amusement of the onlookers." But there was nothing extraordinary in this. By the hornpipe Mr. Barnum simply desired to indicate that there was nothing in the nature of a breakdown in his constitution.

THE MASS-TRUM PLATTITUDE.—Admiral Maxse alleged it to be "a remarkable fact that no Irish speaker has ever said that any English scheme of Home Rule would make Ireland friendly with England"—which (a) Maxse of begging the question somewhat.

A VERY SERIOUS MATTER.—The Eastbourne guardians are nearly all (dismal) in their determination to renew the prosecution of the hundreds of families in the town opposed to compulsory vaccination. The guardians have thus "pitted" themselves against the public feeling in the town, which is very strong in favour of the anti-vaccinators, who assert that vaccination is productive of all kinds of ills. So determined are they in their opposition, that they intend to support their arguments by an appeal to "arms!"

SATISFYING EVERYBODY!—As the 9th approaches, the position which the Lord Mayor intends to take up in the Show is exciting more and more curiosity. The question is, how will he comport himself on foot? As this is a point of so much importance, we are delighted to hear his lordship is taking dignified pedestrian exercise meanwhile, so that while the Jewish portion will be satisfied with his walk, the Christians will have nothing to find fault with in his carriage!

A FLIGHT OF FANCY.—Miss De Voe, the lady parachutist, has cut the record. She has descended through 14,000 feet of air—a statement quite De Voe'd of exaggeration, because she asserts that the anorak said so. We quite believe the lady to be very much above—especially on this occasion—anything like a misrepresentation of the anorak; still, one would like her evidence corroborated. Would it be too much to ask Miss De Voe if on the next occasion she would take with her a companion De Voe-age.

(From Ally Sloper.)

Jones (who is not happy at home): I understand you've lost your wife, old man.—Smith: Yes; she tumbled out of a tricycle, and was killed.—Jones (eagerly): Will you sell the machine?—Smith (hesitating): Well, to tell you the truth, I'm thinking about getting married again myself.

Old Tom, one of the parrot masters on the River Thames, went down into Surrey last week to spend a day, but although he admired the scenery and praised the dinner and the beer—especially the beer—yet there was evidently something wanting to fill up his measure of contentment. At length, during the course of a walk, they came across a very strong and powerfully smelling manure heap.

"Ah, this is more like it!" exclaimed old Tom, sniffing approvingly. "This is more like it is at home."

Guest: Landlord, I never met with such a spiteful, greedy, half-starved lot of florid-looking fellows as these with last night.—Landlord (who has received his bill): Beg pardon, sir, but I don't think you need abuse them like that, for I'll be bound, if the truth is told, that they have some of your blood in their veins.

"Did he wear much?" "Well, all I can say is," remarked McGooseley, "that the very leaving shop passes in my pocket turned round of their own accord; while the quarter of red hart run on the counter turned that pale that you might have taken it for a noggin of unawakened."

Bad men, with nefarious aims, Think me for a mug they will look, But find, when they try on their games, I'm not such a fool as I look.

"This said I should join the police, Because I'm a fond of the cook; But, as I keep clear of the grease, I'm not such a fool as I look."

Though of courting I'm awfully fond, In wedlock I've never been to— For with due respect to the bond, I'm not such a fool as I look."

Maud: Why don't you join our St. John's class, Ethel? You know, first-aid to the wounded—so useful, you know, dear; and the young doctor who teaches us, such a nice fellow!—Ethel: I haven't got time, dear.—Maud: Oh! but supposing you were present at an accident, love.—Ethel: Oh, well, in that case I dare say I should be able to faint just as gracefully as any of you.

MURDER AT MALTA. Letters received from Malta contain particulars of a brutal murder of a Maltese woman named Marianna Fynch. She was 21 years of age, and the wife of an English soldier now stationed at Gibraltar. She was an intimate friend with Vincenzo Ciantar, a Maltese cigarette-maker, who treated her with so much brutality that she ceased his acquaintance and became friendly with a gunner in the Royal Malta Artillery. Ciantar, on discovering this, first quarrelled with the woman and then stabbed her several times with a dagger. She received a stab near the heart, another over the right breast, a third in the arm, another in the side, and two other wounds under the shoulder—one of which penetrated the lung. Death was immediate. The murderer was arrested and coolly remarked, "Why should a crowd? One would think I had committed a theft or something." He has since been committed for trial for wilful murder.

THE KENTUCKY VENDETTA. A feud which frequent references have been made still rages in Kentucky. A Louisville despatch which appears in the New York Times gives the latest information of the lawless proceedings of the "Howard gang." It appears that Judge Lewis, at the head of a "law and order" party, surrounded the Howard desperadoes and fired upon them, killing one man and wounding six. Two of the attacking party were taken possession of the court-house, where the desperadoes left him, barricaded, while the Howards were threatening to burn the town. The few inhabitants who are not on one side or the other panic-stricken and wanted to get away, but were afraid to venture across the thirty miles of wild country to the nearest railway station, which is in Pinerville. Both sides are armed with Winchester. This last clash between the two factions, says the correspondent of the Times, is the direct outcome of the killing of a man named Hall and the shooting of a young Howard. Willis Howard had been camped about ten miles from town up to that time, but when his younger brother was shot he came on with the avowed intention of "cleaning out all his enemies, and judging Jack in particular." The state of affairs in Kentucky apparently leaves much to be desired.

The natives in the Solomon Islands some time ago decapitated and murdered an Englishman, named Nelson, and three native "boys," and afterwards devoured them. Her Majesty's cruiser Royalist shelled the villages on that part of the coast where the massacre occurred.

How doth a little "Petroleum" Improve the washing hour? It gobbles up all the dirt from all ways and corners, so that it is that "evil is wrought by want of thought, as well as want of heart." If all consumers would purchase Bryant's "Petroleum Soap Powder," sold everywhere in 4 lb. tins, it would be enabled to pay 4 lb. a week more in wages.—J. A. D.

THE UNEMPLOYED IN EAST LONDON.—At a time when much thought is being given to this matter, a practical suggestion may be of service. Last year more than 400,000 worth of foreign matches were purchased by inconsiderate consumers in this country, to the great injury of our own working people, so true is it that "evil is wrought by want of thought, as well as want of heart." If all consumers would purchase Bryant's "Petroleum Soap Powder," sold everywhere in 4 lb. tins, it would be enabled to pay 4 lb. a week more in wages.—J. A. D.

SOCIETY GOSSIP.

(From The World.)

A contradictory contemporary announces that "there is no foundation" for the "usual report" that the Queen will open Parliament. The announcement on the subject which appeared in this journal last week represents the true state of the case. The Queen pledges herself to nothing, but has merely given a conditional promise that if all is well she will most likely come to Buckingham Palace early in February to open Parliament, when on her way from Osborne to Windsor.

The Prince and Princess of Wales are not expected to return to England until the last week of this month, as they will pay a brief visit to the Duke and Duchess of Cumberland at Gunnington on their homeward journey through Germany. The prince and princess intend to go at once to Sandringham, where they will have a house party during the first week in December; after which they come to Marlborough House for a fortnight, during which period they will be the guests of the Queen at Windsor for a couple of days, and the prince is to pay a visit to Lord and Lady Brooke at Eaton Lodge.

The Duke and Duchess of Fife since their arrival at Duff House have been feasting the school children, their tenants, and neighbours, and making themselves most popular. The duchess has been visiting the poor people, and sitting in their cottages talking to them, and generally interesting herself in their behalf.

The accident to the Shah's train, when he was returning home through Russia, has proved a very serious matter, for the King of Kings has made up his mind that he was very nearly being the victim of a plot which the Government of the Czar had devised for his destruction. It seems that the Shah's saloon was not only tumbled down an embankment, but another carriage came thundering on the top of it, and his Majesty, uttering the most piercing cries, was obliged to crawl out of a window, and to wriggle his way through the fragments of iron, wood, and glass as best he could, which was no easy business, but terror gave him strength, and he presently emerged from the ruins amidst the lamentable howlings of his followers, having torn his garments into shreds, while his hands, face, and ears were badly cut and his headgear was gone. When once the Shah was out of the train, he sat down on the bank with little Asia, who was screaming like a maniac, and, uttering a torrent of imprecations, refused positively to stir. The Russian officers were profuse in excuses and apologies, but as they were unable to comply with the Shah's wish, that the chief engineer, driver, stoker, and guards should be shot, and then executed, he declined to be pacified, and, after a long discussion, would only consent to enter another train on condition that it travelled all the way at the rate of ten miles an hour.

A fresh attempt will be made next session to drive the Liberal Unionist leaders from the front Opposition bench. The excuse which is to be put forward is Mr. Chamberlain's recent attack on Mr. Gladstone. The friends of the Liberal leader state that personal intercourse between him and Mr. Chamberlain is now out of the question, and that therefore it is absolutely necessary that the Liberal Unionists should change their places. This is not the first notice of ejectment that Lord Hartington and Mr. Chamberlain have received, and it will be as fruitless as any of the former intimations of the same kind. The Liberal Unionists will stick to their places as stubbornly as an Irish tenant to his holding, not because they wish to annoy Mr. Gladstone, but because their presence there is necessary as an assertion of a principle. If Mr. Gladstone could get them driven across the floor of the House he would at once proclaim that he alone was the depository and the exponent of Liberal traditions.

The Primrose League lies heavy on the National Liberal Federation. The Radicals have got the idea that the members of the Primrose League exercise some sort of intimidation over voters, and a Liberal League is being formed to counteract the influence of this awful organisation. The more intelligent men of the party know that this is all nonsense. The great aim of the Primrose League is that its members are most efficient canvassers. It reaches the voters as no other political organisation has done, and this is why the Radicals speak of it with so much bitterness, and demand protection against its wiles and stratagems.

"The surrender of Gweedore," as the Nationalist papers call it, has roused extremely bitter feelings among the Parnellites, and it is only because Mr. Healy was one of the parties to the transaction that expression of their anger has been restrained. In a moderate amount of the plea of guilty offered by so many of the prisoners, they completely spoiled the Parnellite game. The trials at Maryborough were to be made the ground of a great attack on the administration of justice in Ireland, and to be held up as another example of Castle chicanery and oppression. Even an Irish Nationalist can hardly assert the innocence of men who have pleaded guilty, and so the pretty plot for attacking the Government has come to naught. We shall hear little about the miscarriage of justice at Maryborough.

(From Truth.)

Mr. Cunliffe Lister is said to have made £200,000 a year out of the Manningham Mills for a long time before the business was converted into a company, when he received a million in cash for half of the concern, retaining the other half in his own hands. During the last few years Mr. Cunliffe Lister has been purchasing estates in the North Riding of Yorkshire; and he now owns more than 40,000 acres in that county, for which he has paid upwards of £250,000.

The Prince of Wales is to go to Berlin towards the end of January, on a visit to the Emperor William, and he is probably arranged to be there on the 27th of that month, in order that he may be present at the celebration of his Majesty's birthday.

Of all the aberrations of the silly season perhaps the most nonsensical is the proposal of a stupid, snobbish contemporary that the Prince of Wales should at once be appointed Regent, because he is in a precarious state of health, and if he were to die the princess would be left very badly off, whereas if he were made Regent pecuniary arrangements on a more liberal scale would be granted by Parliament. It is needless to criticise such preposterous rubbish, but I will at least point out that in the unhappy event of the demise of the Prince of Wales the princess, so far from being "very badly off," would have a Parliamentary annuity of £200,000 a year for life, while the Sandringham estate is entirely at the disposal of the prince; added to which, all the children would be well provided for, as, apart from the Parliamentary provision for the younger members of the family, the Duke of Cornwall estates would at once pass to Prince Albert Victor.

The early marriage of Princess Sophia is a great blessing for her mother, the Empress Frederick, as they had not been upon the best of terms during the last eighteen months, in consequence of the scorn and contempt which the princess openly expressed for her sister, Princess Victoria, attachment to Prince Alexander of Hattenberg. Princess Sophia is a very clever young woman, exceedingly imperious, and saturated with family pride. She is a great favourite with the Emperor William, who is also on the most cordial terms with his eldest sister, the Hereditary Princess Charlotte of Saxe-Meiningen, but with Princess Victoria he does not get on.

"THE UNEMPLOYED IN EAST LONDON."—At a time when much thought is being given to this matter, a practical suggestion may be of service. Last year more than 400,000 worth of foreign matches were purchased by inconsiderate consumers in this country, to the great injury of our own working people, so true is it that "evil is wrought by want of thought, as well as want of heart." If all consumers would purchase Bryant's "Petroleum Soap Powder," sold everywhere in 4 lb. tins, it would be enabled to pay 4 lb. a week more in wages.—J. A. D.

THE GARDEN.

(WRITTEN SPECIALLY FOR "THE PEOPLE.")

Various Notes upon Greenhouse Plants.

In reply to "Waterlily." I think he gives a hint as to the cause of the azalea losing its leaves when he says it appears to have rather a large pot for its size. Overpotting is a frequent cause of plants becoming unhealthy. Perhaps the big pot has been insufficiently drained, and the soil has become too close and sour for healthy growth. The best treatment now is to let the plant get fairly dry before watering, and then leave it till the soil gets quite dry again. And as soon as we get through the short days turn the plant out of the pot, remove as much of the old soil as can be done without injuring the roots, and re-pot in a clean, well-drained pot considerably smaller, using sandy loam and leafmould, pressing it down firmly, and use the waterpot very carefully till new growth appears. If the soil appears very wet and sour, it might be advisable, on the principle of choosing the least of two evils, to re-pot now if you can place the plant in a warm house. Do not re-pot the azalea unless they are very much potbound. I would rather give a teaspoonful of some concentrated stimulant to each plant, watering it in immediately, and leave the re-potting till the days are longer. You may grow carnations under glass in light, well-ventilated houses. The best perpetual carnations should produce flowers for a considerable time during autumn and winter. The best yellow rose for planting in the greenhouse is *Maréchal Niel*.

Propagating Gloxineas from Leaves.

I am obliged by a further note from "Gloxinea." I am afraid he will not do much with gloxineas in a room in winter—so far, at least, as regards display. I should advise him to keep them nearly dormant, so as not to excite the bulbs into growth till the days lengthen a little. The seedlings had better remain as they are for the present, as at this dull season things move so slowly, and with frequent watering the soil gets sour and the little plants get unhealthy at the very dawn of their existence. Therefore, keep them very quiet till after Christmas, if possible. As regards propagating gloxineas from leaves, full-grown leaves full of vigour are the best, and they should be cut off with a piece of stem, if possible; and if the stem is inserted in a pot of light sandy soil, a small bulb will grow into a plant which will form at the bottom of the stem. This is the best and simplest way of propagating gloxineas when one wishes to increase or perpetuate any particular variety. Expert propagators, with proper conveniences for the work, will lay the leaves flat on a pot or pan of sandy soil, and make two or three transverse cuts through the midrib of the leaf, keeping the leaf close to the sand by weighting it with a couple of small stones, and several bulbs will grow out of the cut surfaces, where they are pressed into the sand, which, of course, should be kept moist. Suitable plants for room culture in winter will be found in such bulbs as cyclamens, leucanthes (Cape cowslips), hyacinths, tulips, &c. *Coronilla glauca* and *Cytisus racemosa* are cheerful plants for a room in winter.

Treatment of Hydrangeas.

In reply to "Wandsworth Common." I am doubtful if his hydrangeas will bloom next summer unless it is protected in some way when the weather becomes cold. In sheltered situations on the south coast and away down in Devonshire, I have seen grand plants unprotected, and which yet flower beautifully every summer. But in other places I have often left hydrangeas out, and have as often in sharp winters had them killed to the snow line, and I should recommend "Wandsworth Common," unless his garden is especially favoured in the matter of shelter, either to take up the hydrangeas and place it in a pot and keep it in a cool greenhouse or even in some outbuilding, or if it remains outside to improvise some shelter to be ready for use when the severe weather comes.

Pruning Fruit Trees.

The leaves are hanging longer on the trees than usual this year; as soon as they are nearly all down is the best time to do what pruning is necessary. The pears and apples and bush fruits, such as gooseberries and currants, should be attended to first. In pruning gooseberries the great point is in thinning out the young wood to let in the air and sunshine. As a rule it is better, if heavy crops of berries are required, not to shorten much. Here and there a branch may be cut, and a young one left to take its place, as by this means the bushes will be constantly renewing themselves. Any branches drooping down near the soil should be cut close back, as not only will the fruit be damaged by contact with the soil, but the free circulation of air beneath the bushes is checked. For a similar reason the centre of the bush should be thinned out and all shoots crossing from one side to the other be removed. Red and white currants are pruned on a different system, the young side shoots being usually spurred in, and the leaders shortened more or less according to strength. Neither in this case, nor yet in the more freedom allowed to the gooseberries, need symmetry be altogether sacrificed, as large, unwieldy bushes are difficult to manage. There are some advantages in having the bush fruits all grouped together, as it leaves the other parts of the garden open and free for spade cultivation. The pruning of black currants resembles that of gooseberries, thinning out the shoots and shortening but little, as the fruit is chiefly borne on the young wood.

The Chrysanthemums

will now be at their best, and those who desire to become acquainted with the chrysanthemum in its highest state of perfection should visit some of the great shows now being held in various parts of the country. Those who are old enough to remember what the chrysanthemum was only thirty years ago will be able to appreciate the rapid strides the cultivators of this much esteemed flower have made during the last quarter of the century which has elapsed since its introduction. If the present mild weather continues, chrysanthemums may be left in the open air, but the best open air flowers are poor things when compared with those cultivated by the specialist in pots, and which are placed under glass to open their blossoms.

Planting Roses.

The rose planting season has begun now in earnest. I was looking round a large nursery a few days ago, and found them busy lifting and packing to supply orders, and I should advise all readers who think of purchasing to send in their orders without delay, as only the weakly plants will be left for the late comers. Even if the beds are not ready for the plants it is better to have them home. Shorten the roots a little and lay them in by the heels till the soil is in good order for planting. Briers for budding should be obtained and planted in a nursery bed and staked. ADAM.

P.S.—"J. C. T." and "C. W. T." will receive replies next week.

In the Queen's Bench Division on Wednesday Mr. J. Milner, governor, obtained a verdict against Mr. J. Johnston, with £2250 damages, for personal injuries sustained in a collision at Beulah Hill between a pony cart, in which she was, and a waggone belonging to defendant.

CHEAP PLANTS FOR THE PEOPLE.

WALLFLOWERS, in three colours: Sweetwilliams, double and single; Canterbury Bells, Seeding Pansies, Polyanthus, Godolfs, A. tricolors, all of superior strain, 6d. per dozen. Mrs. Stinkins' Pink Seeding Carnations, Seeding Hollyhocks, 2d. each; all standard plants. Orders of 1s. and upwards free.—J. W. WALL, ROXBOROUGH, Cambridgeshire.

CANNIBALISM IN THE SOLOMON ISLANDS.

An English Party Eaten.

A telegram from Melbourne says intelligence has been received there stating that the natives in the Solomon Islands some time ago decapitated and murdered an Englishman named Nelson and three native boys, and afterwards devoured them. Her Majesty's cruiser Royalist reports that she shelled the villages on that part of the coast where the massacre occurred, and that the natives fled to the hills. It is stated that other cases of cannibalism have also occurred in the islands.

THE GREAT MACDERMOTT IN COURT.

At the Southwark County Court the other day, before Judge Holroyd, the case of *Didcott v. Macdermott* was heard.—Mr. Armstrong, solicitor, appeared for the plaintiff, who, he said, was a comedian and vocalist, and was also an agent, and the action was brought against him to recover the sum of £25 11s. 8d., being commission due upon engagements procured for him by the plaintiff. The first item was commission at 5 per cent. upon Mr. Macdermott's engagement at the London Pavilion at £200 per week, on which engagement there were twenty-three weeks' commission due up to the 22nd of July. Then there was commission at 5 per cent. upon Mr. Macdermott's engagements at the Cambridge Music Hall at £15 per week; upon two engagements at Edinburgh and Newcastle at £30 per week; and at the Star, in Dublin, at £40 per week.—Mr. E. Andrews, plaintiff's clerk, was called to prove the claim, and produced the contracts in respect of which the action was brought.—The defendant said he was quite prepared to pay the plaintiff £25 11s. 8d., and had brought a cheque with him for that sum. He said he objected to pay commission upon all re-engagements. Not only was that unusual, but—His Honour: I never saw an engagement upon which there was not an armistice payable upon re-engagements.—Mr. Armstrong: Mr. Didcott made this man. He was nobody before Mr. Didcott took him up.—The Defendant (excitedly): I was Macdermott before Mr. Didcott ever came into the business.—Mr. Armstrong: You are an agent yourself?—Defendant: No; I am not an agent.—Mr. Armstrong: What does "Macdermott's Universal Dramatic and Musical Agency" mean then?—Defendant: That is my brother, Edward Macdermott.—Mr. Armstrong: Don't you know that the usual commission is 10 per cent.—Defendant: Not with a man of my reputation. Big turns like myself pay 5 per cent.—His Honour remarked that where a man put his hand to a certain document, and that document was brought into court, he could not go away from it. He gave judgment for the plaintiff for the amount claimed.—The defendant offered to hand over his cheque for £25 11s. 8d.—Mr. Armstrong: We would rather not take a cheque, sir.—Defendant (excitedly): He has borrowed money of me and my family. I have been brought here to be insulted.—Mr. Didcott: He has said he is not an agent. I shall be able to prove right up to the hilt that he is an agent.—The parties then left the court.

AN ELEPHANT ON THE SPREE.

Some strange adventures of an elephant are reported from Lisburn. A circus was passing through for Belfast the other evening, when an elephant called Jumbo became ill. A dose of whisky was administered with startling results. Jumbo broke away, got on the railway, and eventually arrived at Lisburn Station. After exploring the goods department there he smashed an iron gate, and then forced the grounds of a private gentleman and did great damage. He next proceeded onwards, looking at the doors of several houses, frightening the people very much. Passing on to the village of Hillsborough, he visited gardens, stables, and outhouses, bursting in a number of doors. The circus people were looking for the animal all night, and he was not brought back till half-past four the following morning.

CURATIVE ELECTRICITY

FOR SELF-APPLICATION.

ALL IN SEARCH OF HEALTH.

Should try the invigorating effect of mild continuous currents of electricity generated (without shock) by wearing

HARNESS' ELECTROPATHIC BELT.

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Doctors recommend it as positively the only non-fidic means for the self-application of mild, imperceptible, constant currents of electricity. It is light and comfortable to wear, and

ACTS LIKE MAGIC in the Relief and Cure of

NERVOUS WEAKNESS, BRAIN FAG, MELANCHOLIA,

LOSS OF APPETITE, DYSPEPSIA,

RHEUMATISM, GOUT, SCIATICA, LUMBAGO,

LIVER TROUBLES, KIDNEY DISEASES,

LADIES' AILMENTS, SLEEPLESSNESS, &c.

East Africa, though the German Government disavowed the expedition in which he has lost his life as much as ever it could. We can only hope that the fate which has overtaken Peters may not prove prejudicial to the precious lives of STANLEY and EMIS.

THE COMING WINTER.

Although, thanks to the open weather, there is only the normal amount of destitution in the metropolis, we have now reached the season of the year when the area of distress always broadens. The danger is lest the well-to-do should assume from the general prosperity of trade that there is no occasion to be up and doing. That would be a fatal mistake; unless appearances are deceptive, there is every reason to fear that the coming winter will pinch our industrial districts with terrible severity. Abundant evidence demonstrates that the usual autumnal influx of unskilled labour from the country has assumed abnormal dimensions this year, the principal attraction being the better pay earned at the docks. Of course, the rural toiler has a perfect right to migrate hither or thither in search of better fortunes. None the less it is the sad fact that his competition in the urban labour market operates to lower wages and to oust any previously employed who chance to be less capable. It is the Darwinian doctrine of "the survival of the fittest" carried out in its cruellest form. From the London workman's standpoint, therefore, this annual migration is altogether deplorable, adding, as it does, to the number of workers at the very season of the year when work is always most scarce. Lamentations would be futile, however; the rural toiler possesses the inalienable right of every British citizen to sell his labour in whatever market he may consider the best. The only thing that we can do under the circumstances is to provide, so far as may be, against the consequences certain to result during the approaching winter.

On previous occasions immense amounts of money collected for relief purposes have found their way into unworthy hands, while the worthy remained unassisted. The only way to prevent a recurrence of that scandal is to organise the means of relief beforehand. Mansion House committees are admirable agents for collecting public subscriptions, but for distributing purposes they are utterly worthless. Necessarily so; their members are devoid of that close acquaintance with local needs which is a sine qua non for efficient distribution. The denominational relieving agencies are incomparably superior in that respect, but even in their cases there is reason to suspect that the contributions of the charitable are sometimes misapplied. They proceed, nevertheless, on the right principle that each locality should manage its own system of relief. The best model for imitation is that of Paddington, where both collection and distribution are managed by local committees. Each case is closely inquired into before the applicant is placed on the relief list, and they are put to such work as benefits the parish, and this, in some measure, compensates for the cost of their employment. This system has the further advantage of being safeguarded against any danger of sectarian favouritism. No one can quarrel with the various religious bodies for being biased in favour of applicants belonging to their respective communities. It is only natural that this should be the case. But equally incontestable is it that when the matter in hand is the rescue of human beings from starvation, mixed clerical and secular management is best calculated to effect the desired end. In the case of poor districts, the Paddington plan could not be carried out in its entirety; they must of necessity receive monetary help from the outside. But we see no reason why that excellent scheme of relief should not be copied in its distributing machinery throughout the metropolis, subject to such modifications as local peculiarities might render expedient. The one point, however, on which we lay stress is, that with the beginning of November we have arrived at the time when the organisation of relieving agencies is of supreme moment. Even if the coming winter should pass over without any exceptional degree of industrial distress, nothing will be lost by being ready to beat the wolf from the poor man's door.

Mr. Morley underwent a severe cross-examination by his constituents at Newcastle on Monday last. On every point, save one, Mr. Morley's answers were admirably clear and straightforward. He is in favour of adult suffrage, shorter Parliaments, free education, payment of members, and the abolition of hereditary legislators. On the other hand, he is opposed to land nationalisation, limitation by Parliament of the hours of labour, and the abolition of the monarchy. Nothing could be clearer; and Mr. Morley deserves some praise for speaking out so plainly before an audience which cannot have altogether agreed with him. But on one point Mr. Morley would say not a word. That point—need we say?—was Home Rule. In vain his constituents asked for some sort of definite statement. Not a word would Mr. Morley say, except that he disputed the right of the meeting to ask any questions about it at all. At Middleborough, however, on Wednesday, he was more open, and actually condescended to define Home Rule. And what was his definition? "Such a reform in the Government of Ireland as shall give them (the Irish) a statutory Parliament, as shall give to Irishmen an effective share in the executive administration of their own country." Now, seriously, does this tell us anything at all? Is

it not, rather, one of those resonant Gladstonian phrases which sound so magnificent, but of which one must say, with the poet, that "as to the meaning it's what you please."

THE DEPTFORD CATTLE MARKET Visit by Mr. Chaplin.

On Thursday Mr. Henry Chaplin, as Minister of Agriculture, paid a visit to the Foreign Cattle Market, Deptford, in order to investigate the methods adopted for preventing the spread of disease, and to inspect the system in force for the isolation of cattle, if necessary. The visit took place in response to the invitation of the Corporation of London, Mr. Darling, Q.C., M.P. for Deptford, and Mr. Board, M.P. for Greenwich; and Mr. Chaplin, who journeyed to Deptford by water, was accompanied on board the boat by the latter gentlemen, as well as by Professor Brown, of the Agricultural Department, the City Remembrancer (Mr. Prior Gouldeney), and several members of the markets committee of the Corporation of London. On the boat arriving at the jetty at Deptford, Mr. Chaplin was received by Messrs. J. Greenwood, and Mr. Greenwood, members of the markets committee, and Sir John Monckton, the town clerk of London. Although the visit was of a semi-private nature, and had been arranged in order to afford Mr. Chaplin an opportunity of making a general inspection of the market, which he had not seen for about three or four years, it was understood to be in a measure connected with the prohibition by our Government of the importation into the London market of sheep from Germany, where the foot-and-mouth disease prevails. The number of sheep consigned alive from Germany to the Deptford market has usually reached 400,000 per annum, but owing to the prohibitory order in March last, only 140,000 have been sent this year. The importation of horned cattle from Germany was stopped several years ago, owing to a plague in that country, and thus no live animals are now received at Deptford from Germany. The result of the cessation of this trade has been to cause a good deal of dissatisfaction at Deptford, where about 2,000 persons have been thrown out of employment, and where a lively agitation against the action of the Government is going on. After making a complete inspection of the market, Mr. Chaplin conferred with the members of the markets committee, and then returned to town.

MR. BIGGAR'S LIBEL ACTION.

The Press Association states that the action for libel brought by Mr. Biggar, M.P., against the London Evening News and Post, for having described the hon. member as an invincible, has been settled. The defendants having written admitting that Mr. Biggar is not, and never was, an invincible; that the statement complained of in the placard referring to the report of the Farnell Commission was made in error, and agreeing to pay the plaintiff's costs. The following correspondence on the subject has taken place:—
"21, Essex-street, Strand, London, W.C. (London Newspaper Company v. Biggar). Dear Sir,—We are pleased to repeat in writing that which we have stated to you personally. Whatever political opinions our clients, the Evening News and Post, may have, we are sure that their sole desire is to attain them by evincing strict accuracy and fairness between friend and foe alike. We therefore have no hesitation in saying that in describing Mr. Biggar as an invincible on the placard of one of their editions on the 25th May last they fell into error. We have not and never was an invincible, and under the circumstances, in terminating this litigation, they have consented to pay your client's costs. In justice to our clients, however, we must add that the error was only made on the placards of one of their earlier editions; that their report of the evidence before the special commission to which the placard referred was admittedly accurate—and, lastly, that according to our instructions, they would gladly, in the first instance, have rectified what was purely an inadvertence and had their attention been called to it otherwise than by the service of a writ.—Yours truly, KAYS and GUDALLA.—Messrs. Kines and Hammond."—Bedford-row House, London, W.C., November 7th, 1889.—Biggar v. The Union Newspaper Company.—Dear Sir,—We are receipt of yours herein of this date which we readily accept, on behalf of our client, Mr. J. C. Biggar, M.P., containing, as it does, a frank admission that the application of the word 'Invincible' to our client was an error, and that your clients have satisfied themselves that Mr. Biggar is not, and never was, an 'Invincible.'—We are, dear Sir, yours faithfully, KAYS and GUDALLA.—Messrs. Kines and Hammond, 21, Essex-street, Strand."

A case has been decided by Justices Mathew and Wills which is of considerable importance to schoolmasters, to schoolboys, and to their parents. The question was whether a Hoxton board school master was justified in caning a boy on the hand. Mr. Babbey, of Worship-street Police Court, had given it as his opinion that caning on the hand subjected the recipient to risk of serious injury, and ought not to be inflicted. The judges, on appeal, thought otherwise. We are quite aware that caning on the hand was, and still is, common enough. We know, too, that Parliament has not defined the parts of the body on which a boy may and may not be chastised. Nevertheless, two things are certain. In the first place, nature has provided every youngster with a portion of his anatomy which is peculiarly sensitive to pain, and yet may be severely flogged without permanent injury; and secondly, the delicate mechanism of the hand renders it (in spite of the judges) a highly dangerous thing to strike a heavy blow upon it. A boy may be—and boys sometimes are—seriously injured by blows on the hand, just as they are made deaf by a severe box on the ear. Corporal punishment, in reason, is salutary and necessary for many boys, if not for most. But let it be confined to that specially intended part of the person to which we have already referred.

A WIFE'S DILEMMA.

At the Bow-street Police Court on Wednesday, a middle-aged woman attended before Sir James Ingham, and sought advice with reference to her husband's behaviour. She complained that he would not work, and she was bound to keep him. He gave way to intemperate habits, and she was anxious to leave him and take her children with her.—Sir James Ingham questioned her at length, to ascertain if her husband had done anything that would bring him within the jurisdiction of the court. He failed, however, to elicit anything upon which he could act, a fact which appeared to disconcert the applicant.—Sir James Ingham: Don't think, my good woman, that I could help you if I could.—The Applicant: Well, I was married to him when I was eighteen.—Sir James Ingham: Well, if you were eighteen again you would do the same thing. You fix your fate at eighteen.—The Applicant: All I want is a bed for myself and children. He says if I take anything he will lock me up.—Sir James Ingham: Who paid for the things?—The Applicant: We both worked very hard for them.—Sir James Ingham: So then it is your joint property. I don't know what I can do. Some day or other he will strike you or something, then you must come to the magistrate and ask for protection.

LONDON COUNTY SESSIONS.

THEFT FROM A RAILWAY COMPANY.—George Johnson, 20, machinist, pleaded guilty to a charge of having stolen a parcel containing fifty-two yards of serge, value £3 10s., the property of the Great Eastern Railway Company.—Mr. Forrest Fulton, who appeared for the railway company, said the parcel was being sent by rail, but was stolen before it reached the checker. Two previous convictions for housebreaking and one as a rogue and vagabond were proved against the prisoner, and he was sentenced to five years' penal servitude.

STEALING A RAILWAY CUSHION.—John Lawrence, 38, labourer, was indicted for having stolen a cushion, value £2 10s. Mr. Grain prosecuted on behalf of the London and North-Western Railway Company.—It appeared that on the morning of October 16th a cushion was found to have been stolen from a third-class carriage which had been during the night in the yard at Willesden Junction. The prisoner was met by a detective in Uxbridge-road on the afternoon of the same day, and was arrested, and a quantity of horsehair taken from the cushion was found in a sack which he was carrying. He said he had not stolen the cushion, but he knew who had, and told the detective the address of a marine-store dealer to whom the rest of the horsehair had been sold.—The jury found him guilty.—The detective stated that the prisoner was often loitering about the station yard, and had been before convicted of stealing goods from it.—He was sentenced to nine months' imprisonment, with hard labour.

HOUSEBREAKING.—Charles Hemmerling, 29, basket maker, was indicted for housebreaking. Mr. Bealey appeared for the prosecution; and Mr. Purcell for the defence.—According to the evidence, about 7.30 p.m. on October 14th, Ada Fakes, daughter of a police constable, living with her father at 11, Windsor-terrace, City-road, heard someone let himself into the house with a latch-key and go upstairs. She ran into the passage, shut the front door, which was open, and sent for her father. He came in with a brother constable, and they found the prisoner on the stairs, apparently asleep and drunk. He said, "Where am I?" and afterwards stated that he had mistaken the house for a club in the neighbourhood at which he was living.—Witnesses to character were called on behalf of the prisoner, and the jury returned a verdict of not guilty.

SHOP-LIFTING.—Edward Smith, 19, labourer, pleaded guilty to a charge of stealing some bacon from a shop. Previous convictions for shoplifting were proved against him, and he was sentenced to twelve months' imprisonment, with hard labour.

STEALING MONEY.—John Graiser, 19, stick-maker, was indicted for stealing £4 4s., the moneys of John Edward Finch. Mr. Baylis was for the prosecution.—The prosecutor is a bat-maker, carrying on business in St. John's-road, Hoxton. On the afternoon of October 25th his daughter found the prisoner in the passage of their house. She called her father, who sent for a constable and gave the prisoner into custody. He then found the £4 4s. had been taken from the mantelpiece one of the bed-rooms. While they were waiting for the constable, prisoner asked for a glass of water, which he drank, and when searched only £2 10s. was found on him.—He was convicted, and, previous convictions having been proved against him, he was sentenced to eighteen months' hard labour.

THOSE UNFORTUNATE YOUNG WOMEN.—Ethel McDonald, 30, was indicted for neglecting and exposing Cyril McDonald, said to be aged 10, in a manner likely to cause him injury to health.—As reported in the People on the occasion of the prisoner's examination she is the boy's aunt, and on the 28th October she was found by a constable with him in a room in Hyde Park. It was raining, and very foggy at the time, the weather being such as was likely to be very injurious to a child of his years. At the police court, the prisoner—who, as well as the boy's mother, has been frequently charged there with begging and other similar offences, the prisoner on one occasion distinguishing herself by throwing a bottle at the magistrate's head—said that her sister was in prison through a shameful persecution, and that there was nobody to look after the boy but herself. She would not let him go into a workhouse, as he had been in one before, and been shockingly ill-treated. She and her sister were daughters of the late chief constable of Wakefield, and had been ruined by a conspiracy, into which she demanded an inquiry. She complained of the conduct of everybody connected with her and her sister since their father's death, including a judge, who had, she said, prostituted justice in order to obtain possession of the boy, the subject of the present charge.—Cyril McDonald, who was called, said his mother's name was Emily, and she and his aunt Annie were in prison. He had been with the prisoner for fourteen days before she was arrested, and during that time had not slept in a bed. They had slept in doorways at Queen Anne's Buildings, Westminster, at Castle Buildings, and in Hyde Park.—Dr. Gilbert, chief surgeon at Holloway, said the prisoner was subject to delusions, and he believed both she and her sisters were insane on the point that there was a conspiracy against them to get possession of the boy.—The jury found the prisoner guilty, and adjourned their verdict until the next day, when they were to give their opinion as to her responsibility for her actions with regard to the boy.—Mr. Underhill ordered her to be detained during her Majesty's pleasure.—"It is a shameful conspiracy!" exclaimed the woman, on hearing this. "I hope God will do for you as He has for this child."—Cyril McDonald was taken back to Fulham Workhouse, where he had been detained since the arrest of the prisoner.

AN OLD OFFENDER.—Mary Field, 45, Sarah Brown, 36, and Mary Connor, 48, were found guilty of shoplifting from a draper's shop in High-street, Stoke Newington. Mr. Keith Frith and Mr. Sands prosecuted; Mr. Hutton defended Brown. The police officer proved a long list of previous convictions against Connor, who had more than once suffered penal servitude. She had, it was stated, spent thirty-one years of her life in prison.—The prisoner denied this, but confessed to sufficient to enable Mr. Warry to deal with the case. He sentenced Connor to eight years' penal servitude, and the other prisoners to five months' imprisonment each, with hard labour.

BASE SILVER COINAGE.

There is reason to believe that coins made of silver, and yet "base," in that they have not been coined at the Mint, are now being put into circulation. The other day, at Goldsmiths' Hall, the authorities received amongst a number of coins paid in on account of hall-marking a half-crown that, on examination, proved to be base. It was made of silver and the weight was correct, but from the absence of certain marks a matter not likely to be noticed by any save experts, the Goldsmiths' authorities detected that it had not been coined at the Mint. They accordingly forwarded it to the Bank of England, the officers of which, no being certain whether or no the coin was a base one, sent it on to the Mint, where it was at once condemned and detained. On inquiry at Goldsmiths' Hall, we learn that up to the present this is the only coin of such a character that has come under their notice. Of course, it is impossible to say whether the fraud has been perpetrated at present to any considerable extent. If the "coiners" who are responsible for this base half-crown have put many into circulation it is certain they have reaped a fine harvest, as at the present low value of silver it is possible to make two half-crowns for a little over three shillings. As the coins possess the true ring, and are made with every care, it is impossible for them to be detected save by experts.—City Press.

The first winter meeting of the Cabinet took place in the council-room at the Foreign Office on Friday afternoon. All the Ministers, with the exception of Mr. Ritchie, who is in attendance upon the Queen at Balmoral, were present.

THE RIGHTS OF DRAMATIC AUTHORS.

The action of Gilbert v. Bossey was heard on appeal on Wednesday, before Lord Justice Cotton and Fry, by way of appeal from the refusal of Mr. Justice Denman to grant an interim injunction restraining the defendant from publishing a version of "The Brigands," containing two songs which had been substituted for those written by Mr. Gilbert. The piece is an adaptation from the French, and the plaintiff's case was that the defendant had no right, without his authority, to substitute songs for those for which he was responsible. It was further submitted that the songs substituted were of inferior literary and artistic quality, and that Mr. Gilbert's reputation would suffer if he was made responsible for them. Mr. Justice Denman declined to interfere on an interlocutory motion, hence the appeal.—Their lordships upheld the decision of the court below, and dismissed the appeal.

MEETING OF VOLUNTEER OFFICERS.—A special meeting of commanding officers of Volunteers was held at the Royal United Service Institution on Thursday afternoon. General Sir Philip Smith, commanding the Home District, in the chair. The subject of discussion was the paucity of officers in the Volunteer battalions, and the best means of remedying this state of things. The unanimous feeling of the meeting was in favour of the Volunteer officers being placed on the same footing as Militia officers, i.e., receiving their commissions direct from the Queen, and being admitted at Court. Also that commissions in the Regular Army should be given to lieutenants under the same conditions as they now are in the Militia. General Sir Philip Smith, in closing the discussion, stated the suggestions in his opinion were very fair, and, if carried out, would no doubt give great encouragement to young gentlemen to join the Volunteers as officers, and he would make full representations to the authorities in this light.

SIR WILLIAM HARCOURT ON EDUCATION.

Sir William Harcourt distributed the science and art prizes at the Hartley Institution, Southampton, on Thursday night. He said that what the triumphs of modern intellect were to the eye and body, so was education to the internal visual organs, making the mind more intelligent and more far-seeing. The educational institutions of the present day put us in the position of being heirs of a great accumulated inheritance of advantages stored up year by year, and it behooved not to be spendthrift of that inheritance. Sir William Harcourt, in a highly commended study of modern languages, and of the progress of chemistry, said he used to spend much time in a laboratory, but of late years he had been engaged in more expensive pursuits.

ILL-TREATING A SON.

William Harcourt, a farm-labourer, Farnham, was charged at the West London Police Court with ill-treating his son, a little boy, aged 8 years, by beating him with a strap.—The boy, who had a mark on the right cheek, said that on Monday night his father struck him three or four times on the head, and once on the cheek with a strap, because the fire was not burning.—In answer to questions, the boy, who appeared frightened, said his father did not hit him hard with the strap. When he hit him the third time he began to cry. He then cried because his father hurt him a little bit.—In reply to another question, the boy said his father caused the mark on his face with the leather part of the strap.—Sergeant Ridge, of the F Division, said on Monday night he was passing along West Cromwell-road, Kensington, when he saw the boy sitting on a doorstep almost naked. He took him to the police station, where he was claimed by his mother at midnight. Witness went home with the boy and his mother, where he saw the prisoner, who had returned after looking for his son. He said he was a bad boy, and he struck him with the belt, but not with the intention of hurting him. The prisoner was a coal porter, and he and his wife were out all day, the boy being kept in the room until they returned.—The prisoner said that he was very sorry for having hit him with the belt, but it was the first time. He was annoyed with him for smoking brown paper at the grate.—Mr. Plowden said he was not quite sure that the boy was telling the whole truth. If it had been conclusively proved that the prisoner struck the boy with the buckle he would have committed him for the full term, for he could not conceive any act more cowardly than for a father to take off his belt and beat a little fellow in that way with it. As it was, he committed him to prison for fourteen days' hard labour, and also bound him over to keep the peace for six months.—Subsequently Mr. Douglas Norman appealed to the magistrate to impose a fine, on the ground that the home would suffer by the prisoner losing his situation if he were sent to prison.—In the afternoon the prisoner was again placed in the dock, when Mr. Plowden said he was induced to mitigate the punishment in the interest of his wife and child. He then ordered him to pay a fine of 20s.

THE LONDON CORPORATION AND THE DUKE AND DUCHESS OF FIFE.

On Thursday afternoon the Lord Mayor waited on the Duke and Duchess of Fife, at their town residence, Grosvenor Gardens, for the purpose of presenting the London Corporation's address of congratulation upon their marriage. The terms of the address were as follows:—"To His Grace the Duke of Fife and H.R.H. Princess Louise, Duchess of Fife.—We, the Lord Mayor, aldermen, and commons of the City of London, in common council assembled, desire to offer to your grace and to your royal highness our sincere congratulations on the auspicious union which has awakened amongst Her Majesty's loyal subjects a deep and earnest interest. The City of London has always felt, and has on many occasions, been privileged to express its earnest sympathy with all that concerns the welfare of the Royal family, and we are, by this new alliance, happily reminded of the cordial relations that have for so many years subsisted between H.R.H. the Prince of Wales and the citizens of London, who have invariably watched with affectionate interest the domestic life of his Royal highness, his amiable consort, and the members of their family. We venture to express our earnest hope that the marriage recently contracted may prove an unbroken blessing, and so fulfil and satisfy the ardent aspirations that it has excited in the hearts of the people." (Signed) J. Monckton, Town Clerk.—Accompanying the address handed by the Lord Mayor to the duke and duchess was a drawing of a gold casket, in which it will hereafter be enclosed, the casket itself not having been completed in time for its presentation with the address by the present chief magistrate before his retirement from office. In accepting the address the Duke of Fife pressed, on behalf of the duchess and himself, the high appreciation in which they held the compliments and congratulations of the corporation. The ceremony lasted but a few moments, the presentation being made quite privately, and the Lord Mayor being unaccompanied. The casket is being prepared by Messrs. Hancock and Co., of New Bond-street. It is of oblong shape, and has five richly decorated domes, a large central dome, and two smaller domes or temples on each side. Above the central dome are two Cupids supporting the Royal and ducal coronets, there being four torches of Hymen at the corners. The smaller domes have crystal columns, and contain well-modelled figures representing music, hunting, dancing, and plenty. The front panel contains the portraits of the Duke and Duchess of Fife in their wedding costumes exquisitely painted on ivory with the initials "L." and "F." and their respective coronets in diamonds. The head of a royal star, ornamented with wreaths of flowers, surmounts the panel, at the base of which are the royal and ducal arms enamelled in heraldic colours. A bold copy in ivory of the City Griffin, taken from the model by Mr. C. B. Birch, A.R.A., gives an admirable finish to each end of the casket. The panel at the back will bear the inscription:

MASSACRE OF AN EXPLORING PARTY.

The committee of the German East African Company has received confirmation of the news of the massacre of Dr. Peters and his party, and the German Government has been informed of his murder by their consul-general in Zanzibar. The expedition was attacked by the Masai, with whom Dr. Peters had entered into relations in Vituland through the mediation of the Somali. Only two survived the massacre, one of whom was a Somali. The other is Lieutenant von Tiedemann. The second, and rear column of the expedition, led by Herr Forebort and Captain Rust, had, at the time of the attack, not yet joined Dr. Peters. They are most likely still on their way to Korororo, from which place Dr. Peters intended to proceed to Mount Kenia. The last news which reached Berlin from Dr. Peters was dated the 8th of September, from Ukome, in the province of Sakuni, a village on the Tana River, about three days' journey below Massa. From Ukome Dr. Peters intended on the following day to march to Massa, further up the Tana, in the direction of Mount Kenia. According to later news he had on September 12th reached the province of Malakota, in which Massa is situated. At that time he had only twenty-five Somalis with him, and knew that it was dangerous to advance further. It is by no means impossible that Dr. Peters's own people, the Somalis, joined the hostile natives. When Dr. Peters, in April of this year, tried to land on the Somali coast, the natives there threatened to murder him, and many experienced men declared it to have been a grave error on his part that he had enlisted Somalis as carriers at Aden. It is known that as long ago as 1893 this tribe murdered the traveller Von Decken and his companions, and a few years ago they also murdered Dr. Juchke as Kaptein. Captain Wissmann had also enlisted Somalis among his troops, but he placed so little confidence in them that he disarmed them in May before attacking Basiri.

The National Zeitung says of Dr. Peters:—"He fell honourably as a soldier, the victim of his own convictions. Should, as we hope, the German East African colony in the future develop to Germany's honour and advantage, Peters will always be gratefully spoken of as its founder." The Norddeutsche Allgemeine Zeitung, strange to say, has the suspicion of the German newspaper that the London Emin Pasha Committee are purposely keeping the public in the dark as to the news received from Stanley.

Who he Was.

Dr. Peters was the son of a clergyman in Neuhaus, on the Elbe, and was born in 1854. He was educated at a convent school and studied history, political economy, and jurisprudence at Berlin. In 1873 a gold medal for a historical work was awarded him by the Berlin Philosophical Faculty, and then he graduated. After living some time in London Peters returned to Berlin to complete his philological studies, and then began, with some congenial spirits, an agitation in favour of a more energetic colonial policy. It is well known that in the year 1884 he concluded the first treaty with the East African chiefs, which first recognised by the Government and led to the protectorate. But Dr. Peters, who later on was active in East Africa, had greatly underrated the difficulties of colonisation. He found himself frustrated, although he succeeded in concluding the well-known contract with the Sultan of Zanzibar. Educated as a philologist, Dr. Peters had a boldness of character little suited for academic activity, but just adapted for undertakings like those with which his name is associated. This trait in his character led him to commit many blunders, especially during the first part of his colonial career. He was a very energetic man; but even his friends admit that he did not understand how to treat the natives. He regarded severity as the best method, and by the severe punishments he inflicted he always made himself unpopular.

ROBBERY AT HAMPSTEAD.

A man, whose name was believed to be Rhodes, but who gave his name as Edward Rhodes, 31, tailor, of Gifford-street, Caledonian-road, was charged at Hampstead Police Court with stealing a silver watch, value £2, from the breast pocket of Joseph H. Foreman, a North End, hairdresser, on the night of the bonfire celebration.—The prosecutor, a lunatic attendant at Colney Hatch Asylum, said between eight and half-past on Tuesday night he was standing with some friends at North End watching the procession of masqueraders passing. There was a great crowd, and he was very much pushed about. Presently he felt a button at the bottom of his overcoat being undone, and immediately afterwards he felt a hand in his watch-pocket. He looked down, and saw his watch in prisoner's right hand, still attached to the chain by the collar and he said to his friend, "Bill, this man has got my watch," and with that, seized the prisoner by the throat, and took his watch from him. Two detectives came up, saying they were police officers, and witness handed the prisoner to them. On the way to the station one of the detectives was stabbed in the back near Jack Straw's Castle.—Detective-sergeant Welham said about half-past eight on Tuesday night he was in company with Detective-sergeant Brown at North End. He saw the procession of masqueraders, and he saw the collar and he said, "He has got my watch." Brown and witness laid hold of the prisoner, who said that it was a mistake. They had great difficulty in getting the prisoner through the crowd, and were pushed and hustled, evidently for the purpose of rescuing the prisoner. When near Jack Straw's Castle, Sergeant Brown, who had hold of one of the prisoner's arms, while witness held the other, said, "I am stabbed," at the same time putting his hand to his arm, and witness, supposing him to be wounded, took him to a friend, and in his pocket. (The knife was a large pocket-knife, and the blade was stained with blood.) Sergeant Brown became faint, but with the assistance of other officers he and the prisoner were got to the station. Sergeant Brown was unable to leave his bed.—Inspector Warner said Dr. Herbert Cooper, the divisional surgeon, had reported that the stab was just over the sacrum, and that the wound was an inch and a half deep and three-eighths of an inch in width.—The bench remanded the prisoner.

CHARGES AGAINST POSTMEN.

At Bow-street Police Court, Frederick Finch, aged 21, a parcels postman employed at the Camberwell Post Office, was charged with stealing a registered letter bag containing six registered letters.—Mr. Winter prosecuted, and said that the bag was missed on Saturday. In consequence the prisoner was interviewed. He denied all knowledge of the bag. He was, however, seen to leave the office with a bag over his shoulder. He said it was empty. He was asked if he had any portion of the contents of the bag at his home. He then admitted that he had two small white stones taken from the bag, and that the other contents of the bag—5s. worth of postage stamps and a sovereign—had been in his pocket. He produced the coin, and said it was taken from a letter containing two sovereigns. He said one of the other letters contained a black bracelet, which he threw into the fire. He was informed that two of the letters contained two postal orders for 3s. 6d. each. He said he had lost them. Detective-sergeant Butler, of the Post Office, took the prisoner into custody, and he was remanded.—Harry Richards, a second-class postman, was committed for trial on the charge of stealing a letter containing a cheque for £1 5s., the endorsement to which it was alleged the prisoner forged, cashing the cheque at a public house in Edgware-road.

A petition is being extensively signed by the clerks of the audit office of the Great Western Railway Company complaining that their constitution one of the worst paid branches of the service, and asking to be placed on a footing with the accountants and other officers with regard to salary, and to be allowed enjoy similar privileges.

LAST WEEK'S POLICE.

Mariborough-street.

SCENES IN HYDE PARK.—Rose Brooks, a young woman, was charged with being disorderly in Hyde Park on Friday night. A constable said that he found her at half past six that morning lying on the wet grass near the reservoir. She was in the park on Friday, and then she was soaked with rain. She had been lying about the park with other girls all the summer. Mr. Newton: Why, you were here on Thursday charged with a similar offence, and then you were sent to a home. Marlow: She entered it, sir; but as soon as she had had some food she ran away again. The prisoner had nothing to say, and was remanded for a week.

RECEIVING AN INDIFFERENT CHARACTER.—Mr. Newton fined her 40s., or a month. Emma Potter, a young woman scantily clad and dirty, was charged with sleeping in Hyde Park. A constable said that he found her at half past six that morning lying on the wet grass near the reservoir. She was in the park on Friday, and then she was soaked with rain. She had been lying about the park with other girls all the summer. Mr. Newton: Why, you were here on Thursday charged with a similar offence, and then you were sent to a home. Marlow: She entered it, sir; but as soon as she had had some food she ran away again. The prisoner had nothing to say, and was remanded for a week.

ADVENTURES OF A FRISKY BARRER.—J. Miller, 31, commercial traveller, Annie Ring, 31, and Polly Sankovitch, 21, were charged, on remand, with assaulting Philip Hollander, a hairdresser, of Seaton-street, Hampstead-road, and with robbing him of £20. Hollander said that late on Monday night he met Ring in the Tottenham Court-road, and at her request, stood several drinks. After they had been in the public-house some time Ring took advantage of his back being turned to slip out of the door. He looked after her but could not find her. While looking for her he was accosted by Sankovitch and invited by her to go to a house in London-street, Tottenham Court-road, where he found Ring. They were eating their supper when he missed his scarf pin, and mentioned the fact. Sankovitch stooped down and picked up, or pretended to pick up, the pin, and gave it to him. When supper was over he told the women that it was time for him to go home, and he proceeded into the passage for that purpose. Sankovitch, however, rushed at him, plunged her hand into his pocket, and took out his money, when Ring "set to work" upon him with both hands and feet. A struggle ensued, during which they all staggered back into the room. Suddenly a small door in the wall of the room opened, and Miller sprang out and commenced to kick him with all his force. When the affair had been going on for some time, a constable came in, and rescued him. The result of the attack was that he had two black eyes, his chest was a mass of bruises, and his left arm and ribs were injured. Mr. Newton again remanded the prisoners.

Marylebone.

"POPPING THE QUESTION" IN THE WITNESS-BOX.—An element of interest was imported into a charge against a young man named Sykes, who had been apprehended on a warrant for the non-payment of £5 15s. arrears in an affiliation case. Sykes did not deny his indebtedness when brought up a few days previously, but asked for time to pay. Asked by the magistrate whether he would consent to that, the young woman, in a demure manner, said, "Well, sir, if he will marry me, I'll forgive him all he owes me." (Laughter.) The case was remanded until Saturday, when the prosecutor, on entering the witness-box, said: "I offered when I was here the other day, sir, that if the prisoner would marry me, I would forgive him all he owes me. He had accepted my offer and he has put up the banns, so that if you put the case off it will be all right." (Laughter.) Mr. Cooke (smiling): Then you want the case adjourned?—Prosecutor: If you please, sir. Mr. Cooke: Certainly; it's adjourned for one month.

Thames.

IN TROUBLE AND TIRED OF HER LIFE.—Leah Austin, aged 35 years, was charged with attempting to commit suicide. John Clark, of Evesham-place, Salmon-street, Limehouse, said that at half past eight on Friday night he was towing a barge along the canal when the prisoner came on to the footpath and threw herself into the water. He got her out with a pole. She was unable to speak. Walter Stratford, 276 K, who was called to the towing path, asked her why she had thrown herself into the water. She replied, "I am tired of my life and in trouble." The prisoner, who was in workhouse clothing, said that she had a father and mother living. Mr. Lushington remanded her for a week.

Westminster.

A HARD CASE.—A young man of respectable appearance, who walked with the aid of a stick, accompanied by his wife carrying a baby in her arms, attended before Mr. Shell on Saturday for advice as to the action of the London General Omnibus Company in leaving him penniless after he had been kicked by a vicious horse while in their service. The applicant, one of the warrant officers, said that he was directed to come to the court when well enough by the magistrate who heard the wife's complaint. She applied to the court a couple of months ago, and stated that her husband was then in the hospital, and that the omnibus company had offered her two guineas, his half pay for a month, provided it was accepted on the distinct understanding that no liability attached to the employers. She would not take the money on these terms. It was alleged that the complainant, a horse-keeper, was transferred from one stable to another, and that the animal which kicked him had seriously injured another man. Applicant said this was so. He was injured on July 21st last, and was two months in the hospital, of which he was still an out-patient. Although the doctor said he could do light work, he had not succeeded in getting employment, as he could only walk with a stick. His knee had been fractured. Mr. Shell told him he could do nothing for him; he must go to a solicitor. Applicant: I have been to a solicitor, but he wants money to bring an action, and I have not got any. We have been obliged to sell and pawn nearly everything we had. Mr. Shell: Well, I can't help you at all. The applicant dejectedly left the box, and went away with his wife.

West London.

IMPUDENT CONDUCT AT A RAILWAY STATION.—Alice Marsh, a machinist, and Martha Walsh, married, both living in Carlton-road, Shepherd's Bush, were charged with being concerned in stealing a lady's hand-bag, the property of Thomas Reeve, of Shepherd's Bush-road. Walsh was further charged with assaulting Emily Churches, a nurse. It appeared that on the 24th ult. the nurse was with her mistress and two children at the Uxbridge-road Railway Station, and while waiting for a train she went into the lavatory. The prisoners rushed in, and told her to be quick out of it. They called her a common larv, Walsh pulling her out and making her face, and asking for the bag. Marsh picked up from where she had missed it near the door. She ran with the

children, scrambled into the train, and then told her mistress what had happened. It was also stated that both prisoners had been drinking. George Hollingshead, a porter at the station, said he saw Walsh carrying a small basket and hand-bag. Sergeant Markham proved arresting Marsh, who said, "I and the lady downstairs went into the waiting-room, but we did not steal the bag, and only pushed the girl on one side." The prisoners elected to go for trial, and were remanded on bail for committal.

Wandsworth.

HE WENT OFF TO SCOTLAND.—Alexander Balfour, who described himself as a labourer, was charged with stealing a horse and cart, a set of harness, and a whip, of the value of £40, together with a cheque for £10, the property of Thomas Parkinson Scrogam, of the Nag's Head Tavern, Merton-road, Wimbledon. The prosecutor stated that on the 10th ult. he gave the prisoner, who was in his employ, an open cheque for £10, with instructions to cash it at the Balham branch of the London and South-Western Bank, and bring back the money. He got into the witness-box at his suggestion, and drove in the direction of the bank, but he never returned. Witness ascertained that the prisoner, after cashing the cheque, left the horse and trap at the King's Head public-house, Clapham, and took a train to Edinburgh. Detective Williamson proved arresting the prisoner on his discharge from Edinburgh Gaol, where he had undergone a short term of imprisonment for being in the unlawful possession of a gold chain. In reply to the charge, he said: "I did not steal the horse and trap; the cheque I own to." Mr. Mead supposed it was a sudden temptation. The prisoner, in his defence, said he got drunk, and was robbed of the money. Not caring to return he went to Scotland by boat. Mr. Mead committed him to prison for two months, with hard labour.

Dalston.

A PATRONS COMPLAINT.—A little old man stepped into the witness-box, and addressing Mr. Horace Smith, said: "Being an inmate of the City of London Union, I took the advice of the magistrate here the other day as to being refused permission to go out to attend my Roman Catholic church, and he told me to ask the guardian, and come again. I have asked the master, and he distinctly told me I should not go out, and put me under lock and key for nothing at all." Mr. Horace Smith: Who has done this? Applicant: A man who ought to be in the fire. (Laughter.) Mr. Horace Smith: Why do you come here? What have I to do with it? Applicant: I have applied to the guardians, and they say the same. They are a band of thieves, all the lot of them; you know that, your worship. (Laughter.) Some of them have got chucked out, your worship; excuse the language. (Laughter.) They have no law to keep me from my worship, when they do not provide facilities in the house. Mr. Horace Smith: I don't know about this; but I suppose discipline must be maintained. An official from the union now came forward and said the master would be at the court later on. Applicant: Beware of him, your worship; he is a downy bloke. (Laughter.) He is a nondescript; he doesn't worship anybody; and he is liked so well that they burnt his effigy once. Mr. Horace Smith: We will wait until the master comes. Applicant: Thanks, your worship; we shall get something from you. (Laughter.) Subsequently, Mr. Ramsbottom, master of the City of London Union, entered the court and was told what had transpired. When he explained to the magistrate that the resolution of the guardians that applicant was only allowed to go out to worship in his own clothes, because on one occasion, when he went out in union clothing, he was away for four months. Applicant: I was away at work, and should have credit rather than blame for it. Mr. Horace Smith: What is the objection to going out in your own clothing? Applicant: Because I must take my discharge and have to get a new order before I can go back again. Mr. Ramsbottom denied this. Applicant: It is true; but it is illegal. Mr. Horace Smith: I don't see anything unreasonable in the matter. Mr. Ramsbottom: I don't think there is another union in the country where greater facilities are given for religious worship than in the City of London Union. There is no obstruction except that which they create themselves. The applicant left the court exclaiming, "He is a downy bloke, and ought to have ten years."

Stratford.

CRUELTY TO A HORSE.—Alfred Dennis, 17, a carman, 5, Victoria-terrace, Herbert-road, Manor Park, was charged with cruelly working a horse, and Seth Bull, his master, was charged with causing the horse to be worked whilst in an unfit state. Richard Glover, M.R.C.V.S., said the horse had a sore on each shoulder. They were superficial, but painful; and their contact with the harness caused the animal pain, otherwise the horse was in general good condition. Dennis pleaded guilty. Bull said he did not know the state of the horse, but since he had seen it he would see that it did no more work for him. Dennis was fined 2s. 6d. and the costs, Bull 20s. and the costs.

INQUESTS.

THE PARAFFIN LAMP AGAIN.—At Guy's Hospital, an inquest was held by Mr. Lanchman, respecting the death of John James Cunningham, aged 19, the son of a cordwainer, living at No. 1, Trinity Buildings, Borough, who died from the effects of burns. The father of the lad stated that about seven o'clock on Tuesday night, he left the deceased in bed, while he went out. Soon afterwards he was informed that his house was on fire, and on going back found that the boy had been taken to the hospital suffering from burns, where the window curtains had been destroyed by fire. A paraffin lamp which was attached to the wall near the window had evidently been tampered with by the deceased, who had knocked it down, and set the place on fire. He went to the hospital, and the boy told him that the lamp fell down, and so set him on fire. Charlotte Cunningham, daughter of the last witness said she was in an adjoining room when she heard a scream, and going into the room saw the deceased enveloped in flames. He ran out of the room. Witness followed, and assisted by a young man, put out the flames, and took her brother to the hospital. Deceased told her that the lamp which was a tin one fell over upon him. Ann Marsden, a neighbour, deposed to extinguishing the fire in the room. The boy told her that he had knocked the lamp over. Mr. A. Meares, house surgeon, spoke to attending the lad, who was severely burned about the body. He died on Thursday morning from shock, consequent upon the burns. The jury returned a verdict of accidental death.

A WOMAN CUT TO PIECES.—Dr. Macdonald held an inquiry at the Vestry Hall, Church-row, Bethnal Green, into the circumstances attending the death of Susannah Segars, aged 56, a widow, lately living at 104, Old Montague-street, Baker's-row, Whitechapel, who was cut to pieces on the Great Eastern Railway on Wednesday. Emma Darlington, of 104, Old Montague-street, stated that the deceased lodged with her. On Wednesday evening she went out at six o'clock to make some purchases and witness next heard of her death. Deceased was a most abstemious woman, and quite sober on that night. Eliza Taylor, the wife of a carman, of 46, Arundel-street, stated that about 8.30 p.m. she was standing at her door which faces the gates of the Great Eastern Railway Company's yard. The railway crosses Arundel-street at that spot. Witness saw two trucks being drawn across and suddenly there was a piercing shriek as if some one had been hurt. She was informed that a woman had been killed. Being the coroner's There was a watchman looking after the crossing and a bell was ringing to warn people that trucks were being drawn across the street. A whistle was also blown by the railway policeman. Constable John Harvor, of the railway police,

stated that he was at the side where the deceased was killed. He did not see her, as he had to watch both sides of the street to keep the people off, and she must have stepped forward behind his back. She was dead when picked up, having been fearfully mutilated. Her head was cut in two, the right leg cut off, and the left leg broken. A juryman said it would be as well for a gate to be put across the street when trucks are being moved, but the coroner said the authorities would not allow it. The jury returned a verdict of accidental death, but added a rider to the effect that in future every precaution should be taken to prevent the recurrence of such accidents.

SUDDEN DEATH AT DEPTFORD.—Mr. Cartter held an inquest at the Railway Tavern, Deptford, on the body of Henry Hubert, aged 47 years, of 664, Rotherhithe-street, Rotherhithe. Robert Clifford said that he and the deceased started work on Wednesday at the works of the Manchester Bronze Company, St. George's-wharf, Deptford. In the afternoon, while doing his work, fell over the handles of a barrow. Witness thinking he was in a fit, obtained assistance, and fetched some water. Deceased was carried into the office, where he died twelve minutes after the fall. He was working in the rolling mill, where it was rather warm. Thomas Stephen Thompson, storekeeper, said he noticed that the deceased appeared pale all day. The rolling mills were not particularly hot. Dr. Kelley attributed death to syncope from failure of the heart's action, and the jury returned a verdict to that effect.

SUICIDE AT CROYDON.—Dr. Thomas Jackson held an inquiry at the Freemasons' Asylum, Croydon, into the circumstances attending the death of John Hole, aged 92 years, one of the inmates of the above institution, who committed suicide on Friday morning. It appeared that the deceased was walking about in the grounds at seven o'clock, being then in his usual health. Some three hours later, however, a female inmate, named Jones entered his room, and found the old man hanging by the neck to a rope which was fastened to a hook behind the door. The act was a most determined one, Hole having placed a board across two jam bars on the floor, and having jumped from the window. He had been in the asylum for upwards of twenty-seven years. The jury returned a verdict of temporary insanity.

CAN ANY ONE STEAL NOTHING?

The Court for the Consideration of Crown Cases Reserved, presided over by the Lord Chief Justice and six other judges, gave an important decision on a point of law on Saturday. A youth named Brown had been convicted of an attempt to commit a larceny, and sentenced to imprisonment with hard labour, but the judges, who raised the point whether the conviction ought not to be quashed on the ground that it was impossible to commit the offence. It appeared that in the case of the Queen v. Collins, the Court of Criminal Appeal decided that a man could not be convicted of an attempt to steal when his hand was found in an empty pocket from which it was impossible to steal. Their lordships now unanimously decided that the decision in the Queen v. Collins was a mistaken view of the law, and affirmed the conviction of Brown.

THE "JACK THE RIPPER" SCARE NEAR OXFORD-STREET.

At the Bow-street Police Court on Saturday, Thomas Jones, 27, Duke-street, Bloomsbury, a clerk, was summoned for an alleged assault on a woman named Annie Ellis. The complainant made a sensational statement to Mr. Bridge on the 26th ult., in which she alleged that at an early hour that morning she had been induced to accompany a man to a side street in Oxford-street, where she averred he knocked her down, and threatened that if she called out he would give her what he had given a good many more. At the same time she alleged that he had an opened clasp-knife in his hand, and covered her face with a white handkerchief. She alleged that the assault was seen by two witnesses, who caught the man, but he escaped and ran into a house. Mr. P. T. Blackwell, who appeared for the defence, said he understood that the woman had not been seen since she last appeared at the court. She obtained some money from the magistrate. Mr. Vaughan asked if the police had made inquiries? Inspector Mulford said he had telegraphed to the address the woman gave at Woolwich, and a reply was received that she was not known. Mr. Vaughan said that, inasmuch as neither the complainant nor her witnesses were present, it seemed that the only conclusion that could be arrived at was that it was a trumped-up case. It was a charge that must have caused the defendant a considerable amount of pain; but he (Mr. Vaughan) could not find more than the circumstances than to say that the summons would be dismissed, and he expressed his opinion that the charge was entirely unfounded.

HOW TO FEED THE POOR CHILDREN.

On Saturday, at the offices of the London School Board, a meeting of charitable associations, members of the court, managers of schools, and teachers was held under the presidency of the Rev. J. K. Diggle. The object of the meeting was the formation of a central council to work with existing agencies with a view to a more economical and efficient system for the provision of cheap or free meals for poor children attending the elementary schools in London. There was a large and influential attendance including Sir W. Hart Dyke, M.P. (vice-president of the Council of Education), the Duke of Westminster, Lord Kinneir, Mr. Mundella, M.P., Sir R. Peel, M.P., Mr. Gladstone, Sir H. Temple, M.P., and Mr. Bouverie, M.P. The Archbishop of Canterbury and Cardinal Manning, expressing sympathy with the objects of the meeting, and regretting their inability to attend. The Chairman having briefly explained the object of the meeting,

Sir W. Hart Dyke moved a resolution in conformity with the object of the gathering. He said no question needed more practical attention. They had not met to establish a new method, but to crystallise previous efforts. One of the first results of the Education Act was to impress upon the charitable fact that it was a barbarous system in any country which called itself civilised to endeavour to torture the brain of a dinnerless child. He hoped that whatever was suggested, no extra burden or responsibility would be placed upon the teachers. Their daily work was arduous enough without being brought into hourly contact with children starving from destitution and in a state of intense hunger. It was their first duty to see that the material placed before the children was, in its state, and that the clay was made malleable and workable for the potter's hand. Of course they would have to give a guarantee to the public that their money was properly expended, and he thought they might copy the Poor Children's Aid Society, in seeking local information on the spot. The task was not an easy one, but no one could contemplate the extraordinary increase in the population without being perplexed at the vast amount of destitution, peering along the road like the hide of untold wealth. Some persons had suggested the application of the rates for the relief of the poor children, but to that he was altogether opposed. (Hear, hear.) No educational body could take a more disastrous step than in advocating such a means for dealing with the evil they were met to combat. Mr. Mundella seconded the resolution, and said that as president of the Self-Supporting Penny Dinner Association, he was authorised to give unqualified support to the idea of a central council. The resolution was carried unanimously. Professor Gladstone moved the appointment of a committee, including the names of the gentlemen already mentioned. Lady George Hamilton and others to carry out the terms of the resolution. Sir R. Temple seconded the motion which was carried.

THE RIVAL STRONG MEN AT THE AQUARIUM.

The scene at the Imperial Theatre on the occasion of the meeting of C. A. Samson, of Baden, the modest athlete who advertised himself as "the strongest man in the world," and Eugene Sandow, of Kensington, on Saturday, was a remarkable one in many respects. Sandow had appeared on the stage of the Imperial Theatre, and had accepted the challenge of Samson, who had offered £100 to nothing to anyone who could perform the feats of strength that his (Samson's) pupil, "Cyclops," exhibited. On that occasion Sandow, who is a superb specimen of the athlete, easily vanquished Cyclops, and so earned the advertised prize. On the same occasion Samson also offered £500 to anyone who could copy his own exhibitions of strength, and that challenge Sandow unhesitatingly accepted, with the result that they met on Saturday night before a capacity. From the first it was evident that the company meant enjoying themselves in their own way, and that they appeared to take the form of chaffing Samson. That athlete who has very curious ideas as to how a contest should be conducted, first of all announced that he withdrew his offer of £500 unless Mr. Sandow covered that amount. This, of course, was a complete departure from the original offer, and did not meet with the approval of the company. However, it was at length arranged that Captain Moleworth, the chairman of the Aquarium Company, should put up £100 for the young stranger and it was understood that Samson wagered a similar amount. Then the Marquis of Queensberry and Lord De Clifford were proposed as judges amidst cheering, and everything seemed to promise an interesting contest. Samson, however, then proposed to try some novelties from his usual programme, but amidst great cheering, the judges decided that the contest should only be in those feats which Samson is in the habit of performing. This did not please the self-styled champion, but he commenced several of his stock tricks, all of which his opponent faithfully if somewhat laboriously copied. The spectators all thoroughly objected to Samson using his own properties, though they allowed him to proceed up to a certain point. When, however, it was discovered that certain chains that Samson used would not fit Sandow, and the latter wanted in consequence to leave the arena, but to that his opponent objected, and there was a great uproar. Samson, who was greatly excited, paced the stage but refused to proceed, whereupon Sandow introduced a couple of real exhibitions of strength on his own account, one of these being the hoisting, with little apparent effort, of a huge dumb-bell weighing 150 lbs., and at the same time snapping in the effort a chain that he had previously fastened round his chest. This greatly delighted the spectators, who shouted to Samson to emulate this feat. One gentleman offering the Baden man £25 if he succeeded in equalling the task Samson, amidst great uproar, then indignantly left the stage, greatly excited and displeased with the whole business, and Captain Moleworth announced that the decision of the judges was that Sandow had done everything that had been set him, and therefore, was entitled to the amount of the wager. Cheering for the fortunate victor and the judges terminated this somewhat curious business.

CLARENCE ATHLETIC CLUBS' ANNUAL DINNER.

The first of the winter gatherings of the West-end houses of business interested in athletics, took place on Saturday at the Holborn Restaurant, it being the annual dinner of the clubs attached to Messrs. Maple and Co. Mr. Blundell Maple presided, but was compelled to leave early in the evening to catch a train for St. Albans, and his place was taken by Mr. Lunnis, who had before acted as the vice-chairman. The two principal toasts of the evening were those of "Messrs. Maple and Co." and the "Clarence Athletic Clubs," the first of these being allotted to Mr. F. W. Cattell, and the second by the Chairman, Mr. H. Woodzell proposed the toast of "Chairman," The only other toast was that of "The Visitors and Honorary Members," and in the intervals several songs and recitations were given, and a very enjoyable evening was passed.

LONDON CAGE BIRD ASSOCIATION.

The second members' show of canaries, titlins, and British and foreign birds, was opened Saturday at the Masons' Arms Hotel, Kensal Green, with a display of about 250 exhibits in the champion, amateur, and novice classes, prizes being awarded for the specialties of exhibits in each class. The show was specially rich in Norwich (crested and plain head), there being a fair collection of foreign specimens. Mr. J. H. Ward was adjudged a special silver medal, under the championship section, for the best exhibit in Class I, Norwich (clear yellow), given by Mr. Mackey. A silver medal was also given for the best points' prizes. Mr. Jacob Mackey, of Norwich (Scottish fancy), and Mr. T. H. Brown, of Edinburgh, acted as judges. The show closed on Monday.

FEVER IN LONDON AND NURSING.

On the fever returns being submitted at Saturday's meeting of the Metropolitan Asylum Board the chairman said that the managers would see that there was no occasion for uneasiness as to accommodation, there being 1,637 beds occupied against 1,557 in the previous fortnight. The number now submitted was only seventy in excess, while in the previous fortnight it was 111. This showed that the discharges were increasing, and that the admissions did not seem to be augmenting. They hoped that very soon the numbers would go down. The chairman said he had received from Dr. J. H. Bridges, medical inspector to the Local Government Board, suggestions as to the qualifications which should be looked for in the candidates for the office of matron in the fever hospitals. He proposed that the communication should go to the General Purposes Committee to communicate with the Hospital Committees. Dr. Bridges said the question was specially important at the present time, when the managers were considering the expediency of admitting students of medicine to their hospitals. The nursing staff, in such a case, should be under a system of government and discipline at least as good as that which obtained in the general hospitals of London. (Hear, hear.) The nurses should be under the superintendence of a highly qualified officer of their own sex. Subordination to a matron was herself possessed the skill and experience appertaining to nursing. His own experience of the twenty-four poor law infirmaries of the metropolis tended to the same conclusion. With a view to the effect at the St. Marylebone Infirmary, which was a model of good management in all that referred to the nursing staff, the chairman thought they were very much indebted to Dr. Bridges. Other business having been transacted the board adjourned.

At half-past one o'clock on Saturday, a young

girl named Harriett Howes, aged 19 years, a servant in the employ of a lady residing at No. 24, Angel-road, Brixton, was lying in the Charity Ward at St. Thomas's Hospital. The unfortunate girl was brought to the hospital by Inspector Brown, of the W Division of Police, to whom she stated she had taken poison with the intent of committing suicide. The East Surrey Coroner was notified last week of the death of James Herbert, aged 77 years, formerly at Messrs. Maudslayi, Sons and Field's, wharf, No. 8, Belvedere-road, Lambeth. On Tuesday afternoon the deceased accidentally fell off a stack of timber, fracturing his collar bone, besides receiving other severe injuries. When picked up, he refused to be taken to the hospital, and was consequently carried indoors, but succumbed to his injuries.

LORD CRANBORNE AND HOME RULE.

Lord Cranborne on Saturday delivered an address to the electors of the Darwen division of North Lancashire at Longridge Co-operative Hall. Referring to the report of the Commission on Education, he said it was a remarkable thing that the attitude of the leading supporters of the School Board system was alike opposed to religious education and to voluntary schools. As to Ireland, his complaint was that they could never get free from Ireland. The Government had been enabled to show that their policy was not merely of the repressive kind. They had passed one of a series of remedial measures for Ireland and intended to pass others. Mr. Morley had said that he did not like to label their proposals as Canadian Home Rule or Colonial Home Rule, but how were people to know what was meant by Home Rule unless they divided the various forms of that very obnoxious article under headings? Were they prepared merely for the vanity of some Irish politician or for the covetous desire of a few Irish farmers to destroy the essence of this country's power, which had been handed down to them by wise ancestors, and so earn the contempt of their fellow creatures and the condemnation of posterity?

LORD GEORGE HAMILTON ON THE EFFICIENCY OF THE NAVY.

Speaking at a meeting of Conservatives at Bramley, near Leeds, on Saturday, Lord George Hamilton said that if our system of defence was to be efficient the co-operation of the Army and Navy was necessary. With regard to the action taken by the Government concerning the Navy, he said the stumbling block of this was that there was in the Radical party a large number of people who opposed any expenditure on the Army and Navy. Radical administration had been too slow, and they had endeavoured to make a big display on as small an expenditure as possible. They could not have ships without guns, guns without ammunition, or all three without crews to work them. He was quite prepared to have any test applied to the efficiency of the Navy, assuming that the test was the same as that applied to any foreign navy. The public had been given to understand that this country was absolutely incapable of constructing all our great ships. He did not deny that there were difficulties, but they had done very well.

FATAL FALL AT BRITTON.

On Saturday Mr. G. P. Wyatt received information of the death of Charles Stokes, aged 35 years, a plasterer, lately residing at No. 195, Kaiton-road, Brixton. It appears that the deceased was engaged in unloading a sand-cart in the Stockwell Park-road, and from some unaccountable cause he fell over the side of the cart into the road. His father-in-law, Richard Roberts, who witnessed the occurrence, at once ran to his assistance, and finding that he was unconscious, sent for Dr. Walter Pocock, of Brixton Hill, but upon that gentleman's arrival life was pronounced extinct.

The funeral of the late Mr. Alfred Smith, for many years the proprietor of the Welsh Harp and Prince Alfred took place last week at Nunhead. Through failing health, Mr. Smith had given up business, and was living at Clapham, and died on the 24th ult. after a lingering and painful illness.

Mr. John Henry, of No. 95, High Holborn, was on Saturday descending from a Brixton omnibus at the foot of Westminster Bridge-road when his gold ring got fixed on the brass guard, and he was dragged several yards before the horses could be stopped. He sustained serious injuries, which were dressed at St. Thomas's Hospital.

On Saturday afternoon Thomas Henry Budden, a carman in the employ of the London and South-Western Railway Company, residing at No. 9, Bradley-street, Wandsworth-road, was admitted to St. Thomas's Hospital insensible. He was driving a van from Austin-street into Waterloo-road, when he was pitched out and fell on his head, causing fracture of base of skull.

PEARS.—PARIS EXHIBITION.

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PEARS.—FACILE PRINCEPS.

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PEARS.—HIGHEST POSSIBLE AWARD.

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PEARS.—ONLY GOLD MEDAL AND DIPLOMA.

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PEARS.—FOR TOILET SOAP.

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PEARS.—In COMPETITION with ALL the WORLD.

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PEARS.—SPECIAL DIPLOMA.

PEARS.—In COMPETITION with ALL the WORLD.

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VOLUNTEER GOSSIP.

(Communications intended for this column should be delivered at the office not later than 4 p.m. on Thursdays.)

The dinner at the Mansion House on Tuesday appears to have given satisfaction to all who were present. The Lord Mayor appreciated the mark of recognition of his services as shown by the testimonial presented him by the commanding officers, and on the other hand he was able to state that, thanks to the intervention of the State, the £24,000 which has been subscribed in response to his appeal for £25,000 has been found amply sufficient to supply metropolitan Volunteers with all necessary equipment. His lordship is sanguine enough to imagine that the movement which he inaugurated will extend to the provinces, but as yet the country districts have not taken any steps in this direction. Nor is it likely that much money will be raised in the country; for it must be remembered that from the 5,000,000 people resident in the metropolis only one half—£24,000—has been subscribed. One half of the fund has been supplied by the City companies. His lordship is very desirous that something should be done in the way of providing for drill sheds and rifle ranges, but he is at present there is but little chance of any voluntary effort in this direction being likely to meet with much support.

It would have been singular if Sir James Whitehead had not hinted at objections having been raised to the methods by which Volunteer equipment had been promoted through the Mansion House. To say the least, it is a novel way of furnishing a force in the service of the State, and the establishment of a precedent which may be fraught with danger. The object in view was a good one, and it is to be regretted that a generous attempt to meet certain requirements should be styled by the editor of one of our best monthly service magazines as being somewhat "ostentatious." It would have been pleasant to have read the views of that fine old soldier, Sir Daniel Lyons, on the condition and organisation of the Volunteers, but, singular to say, the speech of the one man whose opinion would be more valued than that of any other officer present, is not reported in the columns of that semi-weekly journal which records, at great length, the words of wisdom which fall from the lips of C.O.'s when assembled at the Mansion House.

It cannot be other than a source of satisfaction to all Volunteer officers to know that the Portland Volunteer Battalion, hitherto attached to the Dorset Brigade, Southern Division, R.A., have been virtually disbanded. The War Office desires the thanks of the whole force for making such an example of men whose insubordination is deserving of still more severe treatment. Discipline in the Volunteers has been maintained by the men themselves, and to pass unnoticed acts such as that of which they were guilty, would have been only to encourage breaches of discipline on the part of others which might eventually tend to the disruption of the force itself.

Captain Zalinski, who is, no doubt, a great authority on guns, is by no means satisfied as to the future of the smokeless powder. In the first place, he thinks it is questionable whether the powder will preserve its qualities long enough to make its adoption warrantable; and, secondly, supposing that difficulty overcome, there is an objection to its general use in the fact that the manoeuvres of attacking troops would no longer be masked, thus placing them at a serious disadvantage. As a consequence, armies might have to carry two kinds of powder, and this would, of course, be very cumbersome. Captain Zalinski, although the inventor of projectiles reputed to have the most killing effect, is opposed to the use of explosive bullets, on the ground that it is better to wound than to blow our enemies' bodies into fragments. Well, this is one way of looking at the question.

By the way, we must hurry up in the matter of small arm manufacture, or else we shall get behind even little Belgium, which has just given an extensive order for the new German rifle. At present we are doing very little in the way of manufacturing magazine rifles, but as they are very costly and improvements in design are still being sent in almost daily, maybe we shall be all the better for waiting until our weapon becomes really the best among nations.

Only a few faint rifle shots have been heard in the immediate vicinity of London during the past week. These have been fired by men of the London Rifle Brigade, which this year returns over 100 marksmen, the highest of any City corps. The competition for the Evans Memorial Challenge Shield, which was won by a very remarkable display of shooting, the highest score made was 91, by Sergeant Leonard. The other competitors were 84, and the officers of 55. In the last named team the highest score, 85, was made by Lieutenant Milliken, and the lowest, 64, by Lieutenant Brooks.

The "Volunteer Notes" in the current number of the *Illustrated Naval and Military Magazine* contain, among other things, an expression of opinion antagonistic to the proposed Metropolitan Volunteer Club, believing that other institutes are of no solid use. Among other articles will be found one on "The Rifle in Germany and artillery at the Paris Exhibition," which conveys much instruction in a light readable form. Mr. Irving Montague's rough notes on the Russo-Turkish war are as amusing as ever, and "Jottings from the Foreign Press" contain the views of military writers on some of the most prominent questions of discussion in service circles. A paper which ought to be perused is one on "Plan for the Invasion of Canada," in which it is held by the writer that so long as Canada has no direct access to a seaport, nothing could be easier than for the United States to conquer the Dominion.

Company drill competitions ought, according to a well-known writer, to receive more encouragement than they do at present. He points out that where companies individually take more interest in their shooting than so many of them do at present, only then can it be expected that company teams will be found to make the necessary sacrifice of time and money in competing for the honour of securing for the company a county prize. In other words, musketry requires to be stimulated a little more freely in the very nature of the thing, and which require great patience and involve much expense before the object of the competition can be arrived at.

An order affecting artillery Volunteers has been issued to the effect that in future a competition for badges for skill at arms by garrison batteries, similar to that of the Royal Artillery, is to be carried out biennially, and as nearly as possible in conformity with the instructions laid down for service batteries. The badges, which will be of Royal Artillery pattern—silver being substituted for gold—will be awarded as follows:—To the most efficient non-commissioned officer or gunner, the badge of crossed guns with laurel wreath, worked in silver; to the next, the badge without the wreath; and to the third most efficient the crossed guns worked in worsted.

The Medical Staff Corps turned out in considerable force on the 2nd inst., on which occasion they went through a very smart drill under the direction of Surgeon Squire. The treatment of the "wounded" gave satisfaction to the numerous medical men who were present, as did also the way in which the ambulances were handled. The work of searching the field after the supposed action was admirably done by lamp light. There is to be an effort made to increase the number of this corps, particularly as the War Office authorities have of late recognised its

importance. In our future campaigns it is more than probable that an effort will be made to draw a number of the men into the Army Staff Corps for temporary service.

VOLUNTEER REGIMENTAL ORDERS.

2nd LONDON DRILL. At drill hall, Monday, at 8 p.m. Company on duty: Tuesday, 9 p.m. recruits only; Wednesday, 8 p.m.; Thursday, 9 p.m.; Friday, 10 p.m.; Saturday, 11 p.m.; Sunday, 12 p.m. The annual general meeting of the regiment will take place in the mess-rooms on Tuesday, 25th inst. at 8 p.m.

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A BUILDING SOCIETY'S POWERS.

Claim for £150,000.

In the Chancery Division on Wednesday, Mr. Justice Stirling gave judgment in the action by the liquidators of the Sheffield and South Yorkshire Building Society seeking to make the defendants, twelve former directors of the society, liable for about £150,000, lost to the society in consequence of advances made by them over the Dunfermure Collieries in South Wales. It appeared that in 1878 the then directors advanced a sum of £25,000 to Mr. Thomas Joseph on the security of the collieries referred to. Joseph had in 1876 purchased the collieries for £250,000, he had already paid £20,000 of the purchase money; out of this advance from the society he paid £20,000, and the balance of £20,000 he undertook to pay in October, 1881. In October, 1881, however, he was totally unable to fulfil this engagement. He was in arrears with his dead rents, with his repayments of the £25,000 to the society, and even with the wages of his men. In these circumstances the directors of the society again came to his assistance, and advanced the £25,000 for the balance of the purchase money, and about £20,000 to get rid of dead rents and other claims against the mines. Joseph's bankrupt, however, could not be stayed off. He filed his position some months afterwards, and in the hope of saving the money they had already advanced, the society entered into possession of the colliery and worked it at a continuous loss until 1886, when the drain upon its resources, caused by this colliery speculation, dragged the society itself into liquidation. On liquidation it was found that the advances to Joseph and the other losses sustained by the society through the collieries amounted to about £150,000; and the liquidator's ground of action against the directors was that the loans were ultra vires, and that they did not exercise sufficient care in ascertaining the real value of their security. For the directors, negligence was denied. The hearing of the action occupied ten days.—His lordship, in giving judgment, said that the Building Societies Act defined the object of such societies to be to form by the subscription of members a fund for making advances to members on freehold, copyhold, and leasehold estates by way of mortgage. The collieries were leasehold properties, and, therefore, he held that it was within the power of the society and of the directors to make advances on it, and that having regard to the reports of the experts on which they acted, the directors were justified in making the first advance of £25,000. He held, in accordance with a judgment of the House of Lords, that the paying off, by the advance of £20,000, of the first mortgage of the collieries, was a proper consequence of the relations between them and the mortgagee; and that by implication the general powers of management empowered them to enter into possession and expend money on the working of the property. The chairman of the company, Mr. Allatt, and Mr. Locksley, neither of whom had put in a defence, and who had themselves investigated the securities, which ought never to have been taken, while the other directors had exercised their judgment trusting to their reports, were in his opinion liable; and, therefore, the action would be dismissed except against all the defendants except Allatt and the legal representative of Mr. Locksley.

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SINGULAR ACTION FOR LIBEL.

In the Queen's Bench Division on Wednesday, Captain Brooke and his two sons, one a young man the other a school boy, sued Mr. Gurman, a next-door neighbour, to recover damages for libel published on placards and posters, charging the plaintiff with committing murder. It appears that the defendant and his wife.—It appears that Captain Brooke, on returning from the Army, took a house near Aldershot, and had for a next-door neighbour the defendant, who had been a messman in the Army. Annoyances soon commenced, and had gone on for ten or eleven years, and there had been a previous action, in which the defendant had to pay £20 and costs.—On the suggestion of his lordship, the action was settled by the defendant paying 45s. and costs, and expressing regret for what had taken place.

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"THE PEOPLE" MIXTURE.

A pall-bearer at a funeral in Dorset (a Vermont town) dropped dead while standing at the grave.

There were 2,633 births and 1,317 deaths in London last week.

Madras is now likely to turn its attention to tobacco cultivation.

The football team at Princetown (U.S.) has as a member Edgar Allan Poe, jun.

Dr. Graves, Bishop of Limerick, Ardfer, and Arghadoe, this week completed his 77th year.

There has been £130,861 sued for in the City of London Court in the ten months of this year.

No death from small-pox was registered last week in any of the twenty-eight of the larger towns in England.

The seventeen girls most seriously injured in the Glasgow disaster, reported in the *People* last week, are progressing well, with two exceptions.

At Manchester, William Chadwick has been committed for trial for railway and other robberies.

On being committed prisoner mattered that he would hang himself.

"I am anxious to state," says the Bishop of Winchester, "that I have never said, and have never meant to say, that Nonconformists are not Christians."

James Wilson, a farm servant, of Crail, determined to walk home by rail. Not noticing the approach of the goods train from Dundee, the poor fellow was killed.

Inventor Edison's sixteen-year-old daughter is said to be marvellously bright. She is described as a fair musician, a good draughtsman, and she speaks four languages.

An explosion occurred at a pit of the Hebburn Colliery, near Newcastle. Six men were more or less burnt, but no damage was done to the mine.

An eighth death connected with the Clayton explosion took place in Manchester Infirmary on Monday, the victim being James Hindle, of Ardwick.

Mrs. Briggs has discontinued her action for libel against a Liverpool newspaper, in connection with which Mrs. Marbrick was interviewed at Woking.

Marion Esque has also abandoned her action.

A case at Teignmouth, which involved the question of the right to pay wages in public-houses, has been dismissed. The proceedings were initiated by Miss C. E. Fry, the president of the local branch of the Church Temperance Society.

Mr. Chamberlain attended a conference of local Conservative and Liberal Unionist leaders at Birmingham this week, and proposed a reference of local differences on the "compact" question to Lord Salisbury and Lord Hartington.

The United States Minister to Costa Rica recently declared that the Central American States must unite against the Mexican aggression, and that Mexico being indignant, Mr. Blaine has published a denunciation of the Minister's statement.

The Windsor Corporation has purchased "The Goswells," a meadow on the west side of the town, at a cost of several thousand pounds, for the purpose of constructing a river-side promenade, and otherwise improving the approaches from the Thames.

The English passengers during October numbered 40,000 by Calais, 18,000 by Dieppe, and 11,000 by Boulogne, making a total since May of 313,000 by Calais, 172,000 by Dieppe, and 101,000 by Boulogne. The foreign visitors of all nations in October numbered 68,000, as compared with 71,000 in September, 64,000 in August, 50,000 in July, 40,000 in June, and 30,000 in May.

The Treasury have sanctioned considerable alterations at the House of Commons. A new ladies' dining-room upon the terrace, as well as an additional reading-room, and the extension of the members' smoking-room, is being proceeded with. Rooms are also being taken for Ministers, including one for Mr. Chaplin. The officials thus removed are to be accommodated in the new wing of Westminster Hall.

Some time last year the Hong Kong and Shanghai Bank established a branch in Peking. The empress dowager decided to deposit with the corporation two million taels (nearly half a million sterling) of her private purse to serve as a reserve fund. Why did the empress take such a highly unusual step? Does she anticipate the overthrow of the dynasty, and wish to make preparations for such a catastrophe?

From Odessa it is stated that the autumn grain transport has been seriously retarded by a dearth of railway trucks. This is due to military exigencies, and affords another confirmation of the statement that Russia will allow no political consideration to check a moment her preparations. When the next Russian campaign comes it will be found that, for the first time perhaps, the Russian armies will be supported by a thoroughly efficient transport and commissariat system.

Mr. Everett Millais read a paper on the scientific breeding of dogs before the London Fox-Terrier Club at Mason's Hall Tavern, Basinghall-street. He touched on the development of animal life from the hermaphrodite to the sexual stages, and from these to the orders and sub-orders, and the deviations and variations modified by circumstances. On the practical question he urged that some particular strain of fox-terrier should be recommended as the standard type, and that breeders should guard against deterioration through inbreeding by selecting parents of sufficiently marked family type, giving to each individual its proper value.

Here is a painful story from the province of Krangsu, Japan. During a school teacher's absence five of the boys, with the intention of playing a joke on him, hid in empty collars that were in a temple situated immediately near the school. The boy who was to act as sentinel had hardly closed down the lids over his companions when the teacher appeared. Answering the teacher's question, the sentinel said his comrades had gone to heaven, their bodies being now in the collars. The teacher, fearing the joke might have been carried too far, raised the lids of the collars and found in reality that all the five boys had died from suffocation.

In the Queen's Bench Division this week there was an appeal on the part of the head master of Church-street Board School, Hoxton, against a conviction by Mr. Bushby, magistrate, at Worship-street, on a summons for unlawfully assaulting and ill-treating a boy, one of the pupils, by caning him on the hand. Mr. Justice Wills remarked that thirty years ago caning on the hand was the common punishment at school, and Mr. Justice Mathew backed that when Parliament laid down a chart showing the corporal regions of the body to which corporal punishment at schools should be confined, the courts would take care that those regions should not be extended, but at present there was no such chart. He was of opinion that the magistrate was wrong, and Mr. Justice Wills accordingly quashed the conviction, with costs against the respondent.

At the Guildhall Police Court, Claude Marks, of Palace Court Mansions, Bayswater, Charles Woolfe, of St. James's-square, W., proprietors of the *Mining Record*, and James Harris, of 139, Holland Park, an advertisement contractor, were summoned to their bail, before Mr. Alderman Savory, to answer the charge of having unlawfully threatened to publish a defamatory libel of and concerning James Potter Abbott and Marcus Hebro, directors of the Crystal Reef Gold Mining Company, with intent to extort money. Particulars of the case have already appeared in the *People*. Mr. Hebro, being examined, detailed the interviews he had had with the defendant, and stated that Marks promised he would, for £500 in gold, withhold from publication in the *Mining Record* a stinging article, which would otherwise be inserted, reflecting on the witness and the Crystal Reef Company. Witness procured the gold from the bank and had an interview with Marks, for the ostensible purpose of handing over the money, but took with him Sergeant Outram, and gave

Marks and Woolfe into custody. The further hearing was adjourned.

The Scottish Volunteers number 42,673, a decrease of 75 as compared with last year.

Kent was, of course, by far the largest hop producer this year. The crop weighed 331,533 cwt.

Kansas expects to make two million pounds of sugar this year.

In New Zealand the Europeans have 35-28 females to 100 males.

Thirty-eight fever patients were admitted to the London hospitals on Wednesday.

An International Food and Cookery Exhibition has been held at the Agricultural Hall, Islington.

The deaths of fourteen infants were caused in London last week by suffocation—the majority by "overlaying."

The French are not after all inappreciative on the Lord Mayor's services. Sir James is now commander of the Order of the Legion of Honour.

Dr. Cloughton, Bishop of St. Albans, who is the father of the Duchess of Argyll, completed his 81st year on Monday.

As John Miller, a robust Dumbarton carpenter, was in the act of lighting his pipe, he dropped down dead.

Mr. Charles Wyndham and Mr. Wilson Barrett cannot complain of the New Yorkers. They have given them a most brilliant reception.

In several sheltered gardens in East Kent ripe raspberries have been gathered during the past week.

Mr. Henry Wightman, editor of a Liverpool satirical paper has been committed to the gaols for publishing an obscene libel. This is the first prosecution under the new Act.

The Prince of Wales and Prince George, after leaving Cairo, proceeded to Alexandria, where they embarked on board the Royal yacht Osborne, which conveyed them to Athens.

A centenarian, known as "Grandma Brown," living at Winsted (Conn.), who had hitherto boasted excellent health, fell out of the back door of her home and fractured her collar-bone.

Pin, the Italian Anarchist, goes into twenty years' penal servitude. He was the author of dynamite outrages against the Bureau de Placement and the chief of a gang of housebreakers.

Fifty-nine deaths were caused by violence in London last week. Seven were cases of suicide, two of murder, and fifty were attributed to accident or negligence.

Mrs. Anna Rudolph, of New York, adopted an extraordinary method of suicide. She placed a end of a rubber tube over a gas jet, and the other end down her throat.

In Paris there are soup kitchens, which are being kept by a religious order, where the poor can get an allowance of either bread, meat, soup, or vegetables for a penny.

A gas lamp exploded in the ladies' compartment of a sleeping car in the express from Paris to Berlin. One lady was hurt on the hand, and the others have made claims for high damages on the ground that articles of great value are missing.

A new railway station was opened at West Worthing on Monday by the London, Brighton, and South Coast Railway Company, Mr. Laing, Sir A. Otway, and other directors of the company taking part in the proceedings.

Captain MacFarlane, of H.M.S. *Devastation*, has met with a terrible accident while shooting near Larbert. While he was crossing a hedge his gun caught a twig, and went off, the whole charge lodging in his leg. The limb had to be amputated.

Lord Salisbury, at the first annual dinner of the Institution of Electrical Engineers, responded to the toast of her Majesty's Ministers, and dwelt on the immense benefits which electricity was calculated to confer on mankind.

While some enthusiasts hope that English will, one day, be the language of the world, French is supreme on the telephone lines between Budapest and Prague. The reason is that the line runs through a medley of nationalities.

There were seventy-seven deaths in Tunbridge Wells during September quarter, being equal to a death rate of 11.04 per 1,000 per annum. This is one of the two lowest death rates recorded in the town.

Blanche Nelson, described as "a handsome, gorgeously-dressed woman," took a notion to seize and kiss several men on the streets of Chicago, and one of them had her arrested and fined \$5 and costs. A journalistic critic declared that "it is suspected that his wife was watching him."

Oliver Garrison, one of the oldest and most prominent citizens of St. Louis, has committed suicide by shooting himself through the head. He was suffering from kidney disease. He and his brother built the first steamboat to ply between St. Louis and New Orleans.

Large fortunes sometimes have queer beginnings. The *Gardiner (Me.) News* says that one of the wealthiest firms in that state began business on \$5,000, which a sister of the partners set in a breach of promise suit for damages against a rich man.

Steps are being taken in connection with the starting of a semi-political club on rather novel lines. The venture, which will be known as the "Red" Club, is intended to provide a centre for young and ardent enthusiasts in the work of social reform.

Of the 1,317 deaths which took place in London last week, 22 were from measles, 20 from scarlet fever, 31 from diphtheria, 21 from whooping-cough, 19 from enteric fever, and 17 from diarrhoea and dysentery, but not one from small-pox, typhus, or cholera.

The Kansas Legislature passed a law at the last session virtually forfeiting money loaned at usurious rates of interest, and under it the possibly innocent purchaser of an old usurious mortgage, who sought to foreclose, has been deprived by the courts of principal and overdue interest.

William Nash, a goods guard in the service of the London, Chatham, and Dover Railway Company, has met with a fatal accident near Queenborough Pier during some shunting operations. An entire absence of brakes on the body led first to the supposition that death was due to heart disease.

A traveller, who recently arrived from Bombay, relates that on his train reaching Hissar a gentleman in a suit of khaki uniform and wearing a yellow turban, offered to sell copies of the *War Cry* to the passengers. It transpired that the Salvationist was none other than the local superintendent of police.

A contradiction is given to the statement that Lord Salisbury had addressed to the Berlin Government a vigorous protest against the declaration of a German protectorate over a portion of the East African coast line. The communications, on the contrary have been throughout of a friendly character.

At Marlborough-street Police Court on Wednesday, several persons were fined for allowing the dogs to be in public places unaccompanied. Others were fined 10s. each for not having them properly muzzled, they having used the "strap muzzle." Major Tennant, who gave evidence, said that the only muzzle that complied with the order was the cage muzzle.

It is stated that it will be necessary next session to obtain a special grant from Parliament to put in order the house occupied by the late Duchess of Cambridge, so that it may be ready for the occupation of Prince Albert Victor. Extensive alterations and improvements will have to be made in the building, and the prince will probably be unable to enter upon the occupation until next summer.

At Sedgley, James Arthur Fullwood, mining engineer, of Upper Gornal, was convicted of three offences against the Mines Regulation Act, in having neglected to have two communications of the proper width and height, and of having improper entries in his report books, and was fined 25s. and costs. His defence was that the entries were made by an assistant, and that the passage

complained of had contracted by reason of the working of another seam.

The people of Patralia are now ruled by their Maharajah. He had enjoyed the title, but not the power, during thirteen years' minority.

The depriving of soldiers in India of their ball cartridge has resulted in a large decrease during the past year in the number of murders and suicides in the Army.

John Mulien, of Oxford, Me., is said to be 133 years of age. The patriarch has led a wandering life, and attributes his good health to his habit of avoiding intoxicating liquors.

There is only one native factory for the manufacture of lead pencils in all India, and it is at Poona. Another is about to be established in Calcutta, and the founder is a Bengali.

At a meeting at Croydon on Wednesday night, addressed by the Hon. Sydney Herbert, M.P., and Mr. H. Cosmo Monro, M.P., a vote of confidence in the Government was unanimously passed.

A Cairo telegram says that nineteen deserters have arrived at the frontier from Suvaada. They report that there are 2,000 dervishes there, with abundance of food.

The first electric light in a dwelling-house in the world is said to have been used in Salem, Mass., in a parlour which was lighted every evening during the month of July, 1839, by electricity.

At a meeting of the council of the Smithfield Club, a resolution was passed requesting Mr. Chaplin, M.P., to maintain the measures necessary to protect British flocks and herds from contagious diseases foreign in their origin.

The Durban Free Library at Kennington Cross was publicly opened on Wednesday by Alderman Sir J. C. Lawrence. The cost of the building and its site, £10,000, has been defrayed by Miss J. Durbin Smith.

The Royal Commission upon Civil Establishments will resume its meetings at 7, Whitehall-place, on the 12th inst. The first work of the commission will be to inquire into the working of the Foreign Office.

Lynchers who were about to hang a young man at Columbia, South Carolina, for killing his mother-in-law, actually first held a reporter described as "an appropriate religious exercise," and sang "a suitable hymn."

The total of this year's hop crop is estimated at 331,533 cwt., as compared with 231,231 cwt. in the previous season. The extent of ground covered by the crop in 1889 was 57,724 acres, while in 1888 it was 57,406 acres.

A carriage cleaner, who was attempting to leave a train in motion at Main-street Station, Glasgow, missed his footing and fell between the footboard and platform. The poor fellow received injuries that resulted in almost instant death.

A few years ago Antelope Valley on the Mojave Desert in Arizona, was considered worthless for farming. This season the people have harvested 60,000 sacks of wheat and the same amount of barley.

"The poor ought not to be forgotten at the close of the Exhibition," says President Carnot. And so he has sent £40 to each of the mayors of the twenty arrondissements of Paris for distribution among them.

The Dundee vessels employed at the seal and whale fisheries have done considerably better this year than last. Four ships were engaged at Newfoundland, and the united catch consisted of 77,100 seals. In 1888 the same four vessels had 66,900 seals.

Speaking on educational matters at Northampton, Mr. Mundella referred to payment by results as a national defect, and proceeded to dwell upon the value of industrial training, if England is to maintain her position in competition with other countries.

The British vessels respecting whose loss reports were received at the Board of Trade during October are:—Sailing vessels, 57; lives lost, 52. Steam vessels, 11; lives lost, 16. This table is a record of "reports received" in the month, and not of wrecks which occurred.

On her return to Belgrade Queen Natalie wrote a letter of thanks to the Czar for the hospitality extended to her. The Czar replied in courteous and cordial terms. His Majesty's answer is expected to expedite indirectly the settlement of her Majesty's position.

The number of the killed by the accident at Messrs. Timpson's mill, Glasgow, on Friday, has now been ascertained to be twenty-nine, and twenty-three were injured, two of them very seriously. The Queen, on her arrival, was telegraphed to be despatched, expressing her sympathy and asking for further information.

One of the largest bridges the world has ever seen is to be constructed by the Roumanian Government across the Danube between Dudaova and Tchernavoda, thus effecting a junction between Huestene harbour and the Western Railway of Roumania, which already runs as far as Dudaova. It will be twenty miles in length.

A painting on cedar wood by Rubens, representing St. Lawrence, has just been discovered at Arad, in Hungary. The Empress Catherine II. gave it to General Zorich, and it was afterwards purchased by General Damjanich, who presented it to the mother of the present owner, who till the other day, had no idea of the treasure in his possession.

The Severn Commissioners have agreed to provide a mill for improving the river as far as to permit vessels of 40 tons to proceed from the Bristol Channel to Worcester. The Great Western Railway intimate that they will open the bill in its present form, although they would consider any well-matured scheme for the improvement of the Severn.

The British Foreign Office is negotiating with the Serbian Government for the conveyance of the Indian mails via Salonica and Belgrade, saving two days. As the Serbian railways will not guarantee a regular service, the Government will pay a million francs to the reconstruction of the line. This item appears in this year's Budget, and it is hoped the demands of the English Government will be complied with.

Addressing a Primrose League meeting at Cardiff, the Earl of Dunraven said if there was any part of the United Kingdom where the league could make itself useful it was in Wales. Assistants came to Wales with their tongues in their cheeks, thinking there was nothing easier than to persuade Welshmen, and that if they would promise disestablishment they could make Welshmen swallow anything.

A meeting of the committee of the Pasture Institute Fund was held at the Manser House on Wednesday, the Lord Mayor presiding. It was unanimously resolved to transmit to Mr. Pasture, for the use of the Pasture Institute, the sum of £9,000, and that the Lord Mayor should at the same time express to Mr. Pasture the high appreciation of the subscribers of the great benefits which he has conferred on science and humanity.

A colonial paper gives this story. Having heard the evidence in an assault case, an Australian magistrate thus delivered himself:—"Accused, you have assaulted a German. If I had been a Frenchman or a Russian the court might have dealt with you leniently; but we are on the eve of a European war, and if this man should complain to Bismarck that he had received a black eye in a British colony, and the perpetrator of the outrage had gone unpunished, the alliance between two great nations might be endangered. Five pounds and costs."

The County Council resolved on Tuesday to seek power in their bill for the Strand improvement to require the owners of property likely to be benefited to contribute to the cost in proportion to the enhanced value of the cost in proportion to the improvement. They also determined to call to the attention of the Local Government Board to an existing "injustice" in requiring chapels to contribute to the making and paving of new streets, from which charge established churches are exempt. A vote of thanks was passed to Lord Rosebery for the manner in which he had conducted the business of the council during its first year.

In responding, Lord Rosebery said he would offer himself for re-election.

The Paris Exhibition closed on Wednesday, and the work of demolition at once began.

The wages of the colliers of Midlothian are to be advanced by 10 per cent.

On October 23rd a sixpenny balloon was let loose from the Eiffel Tower. It has just been found at Rosenberg, in Prussia.

"In Coventry," says the *Methodist Times*, "we have only one congregation, and that, we believe, does not number 400."

A golden eagle, which measured 5ft. 5in. from tip to tip of its wings, has been caught in a common rabbit-trap at Rannoch.

The opening meeting of the Society of Arts will be held on Wednesday evening, 20th November, when an address will be delivered by the Duke of Abercorn, C.B., chairman of the council.

Mrs. Evans, of Ferry-street, Llanelli, has just been delivered of four children—three girls and one boy. The boy and one girl died, the mother is doing well.

A widow named Ponsallion has just died at Toulouse who was born on March 2nd, 1783. In July the prefect of the Haute Garonne and the mayor of Toulouse presented her with a bouquet and some money as a mark of the Revolution.

At the monthly meeting of the Royal Agricultural Society this week, it was decided to urge Government to take action in regard to pleuro-pneumonia, and take steps for stamping it out at the cost of the Exchequer.

The Austro-Hungarian press unanimously praise the speech from the throne delivered by Prince Francis Joseph. It is considered the prince shows wisdom in avoiding allusions to the international situation in Bulgaria.

The foundation-stone of the new church of St. John the Baptist, Epping, was laid on Wednesday by Miss Whitman, in the presence of a large assemblage. The old parish church is upwards of three miles from the town, while the new church will be in the heart of the town.

Mr. Gustavus Spieker Bulloche left his home, at Hampstead, on the 8th ult. with the intention of proceeding to Bristol, whence he proposed to walk through Exmoor and Dartmoor to Plymouth. Nothing has since been heard of him, and it is feared that some mishap has befallen him.

The Russian Government has ordered the postponement of the municipal elections in the Baltic Provinces until the promulgation of the measure, which will shortly be introduced for placing the elections under the supervision of the Russian functionaries.

The mission of Sir John Simon to the Vatican is to arrange the re-establishment of the Ecclesiastical Court in Malta for cases affecting the priesthood, as also for the primacy of the Bishop of Malta over bishops to be created in the English possessions in Africa.

Mr. Ashmead Bartlett, M.P., addressing a crowded Unionist demonstration at Stratford on Wednesday night, claimed for the Government that they had assisted in maintaining the peace of Europe, besides accomplishing much useful legislation at home. A resolution of confidence in the Government was carried.

At an inquest held at Droylesden on Wednesday, a verdict of accidental death was returned in the case of John Neil, the first of the workmen who died from injuries caused by an explosion at the works of the Clayton Foundry Company, near Manchester, last week. Neil was killed on the spot, and eight other men have since died.

At Blackburn a lunar rainbow was witnessed. The concentric bands of colour were marvelously defined, the tints being as vivid as anything witnessed in a solar rainbow. Large crowds watched the development of the unusual phenomenon. The moonlight was so brilliant that several games of football were played in the suburbs.

The Archbishop of Canterbury, in acknowledging a resolution of the Congregational Union, writes:—"Whatever difficulties there may be in the way of closer union between the Church of England and the Nonconformist bodies, he cannot but be grateful for the earnest and warm-hearted manner in which the subject has been and is being considered on all hands."

The state elections in the United States have resulted in a decided gain for the Democrats. They have carried New York, Virginia, and probably Iowa and Ohio. This result is ascribed partly to General Harrison's unpopularity, to his neglect to fulfil his promises of civil service reform, and to his fiscal policy. The ballot on the English plan was used for the first time in America.

In connection with the Thames Church Mission, a special appeal has just been issued, signed by the Bishop of London, the Lord Mayor, and others, asking for contributions, and pointing to the admirable work which the mission has accomplished during the past fifty years, in looking after the spiritual welfare of the floating population and others connected with the port of London.

Pride and poverty were possessed by a wretched looking man who kept his eyes fixed longingly on a parcel of sausages frizzling in a Strand shop window, the while a fragrant steam crept from the door every time it was opened. A lady receiving him, timidly pressed a shilling into his hand. He turned round, hung the coin on the ground, and angrily exclaimed, "Who are ye, who expect me to pay for sightseeing and sniffing the food?" The lady blushed and fled, and the man went on with his culinary observations.

Addressing a Primrose League meeting in Cardiff, Lord Dunraven said if there was any part of the United Kingdom where the league could make itself useful it was in Wales. Assistants came to Wales with their tongues in their cheeks, thinking there was nothing easier than to persuade Welshmen, and that if they would promise disestablishment they could make Welshmen swallow anything.

A large meeting of master bakers was held on Wednesday at the Holborn Town Hall to consider the situation in the baking trade. Mr. Frazer presided. The report of the masters' committee upon the recent conference with the journeymen's committee was presented, and a resolution declaring that the masters had no other terms to offer than twelve hours a day, or seventy-two hours a week, was carried enthusiastically, an amendment in favour of sixty-six hours a week finding only eight supporters.

A fendish attempt was made to kill Oscar Sternburg, a painter, in Lutet, Montana, early in the morning. Four sticks of giant powder were placed between the mattress of his bed and exploded by means of a fuse running through a hole which had been bored in the side of the house. The furniture in the room was torn to pieces and the side of the house blown out, but, extraordinary to relate, Sternburg is still alive, though it is not thought that he will recover. His wife and son have been arrested.

At the Lambeth Police Court, Clarence Henry Longman, driver in the Royal Artillery, was charged on remand with having murdered his child, aged 3 months, in March, 1888. On the charge the child was missed the prisoner left his house with a parcel. The child was not seen again alive. When asked what had become of the child, he made all sorts of statements, which were found to be false. He absconded, and the body of the child was afterwards found on the foreshore of the Thames at Battersea. Mr. Biron

remanded the prisoner, prior to a formal commitment for trial.

Terrific snowstorms have occurred in New Mexico, causing loss of much live stock.

M. Jules Ferry is reported to be seriously ill at Nice.

The present session of the German Parliament is expected to close about Christmas, and the elections will follow immediately.

The German Emperor and Empress left Constantinople on Wednesday on the termination of their visit to the Sultan.

General Sir Lintorn Simmons left London on Wednesday night for Rome, on his special mission to the Pope.

John Macdonald, labourer, has been arrested at Burnley, charged with attempting to murder Police-constable Hardley at Burnley five years ago.

Telegrams from Zanzibar state that Dr. Peters and the whole of his party have been massacred, except one European and one Somali wounded, who are now at Ngao.

The Forth Bridge was completed on Wednesday, and the last bolts were riveted in the girders forming the connection between the north side of the Forth and the island of Inchgarvie.

The Lord Chief Justice, sitting in the Queen's Bench Division on Wednesday, fined a number of absent jury men £10 each, and said he thought very questionable practices had been going on on the part of one of the summoning officers.

The final accounts of the Greenway Bank estate, issued on Wednesday by the trustee, show that the total assets were £240,138. The cost of realisation was £29,365, and a dividend of 8s. 11d. absorbed £45,000.

Under an arrangement made some months ago, the India Office is determined to reduce the number of members on the Council of India from fifteen to ten, and the vacancy caused by General Strachey's retirement will not, therefore, be filled up.

Prince Kraptok delivered an address on the teaching of geography on Wednesday night at a meeting of the members of the Manchester Geographical Society. He advocated a system whereby a more human interest should be imparted to the geography of the world.

Lord Hailford of Bureleigh, Bishop Lightfoot, and Sir F. Leighton were on Wednesday afternoon nominated for the rectorship of St. Andrew's University, in the room of Mr. A. J. Leifour, M.P., whose term of office expires. The re-election takes place on the 28th inst.

In the case of George Wilson, a farmer's son, who on Tuesday drowned himself in a disused well at Wallington, near Wrexham, after murdering his father and the latter's housekeeper, a coroner's jury on Wednesday found a verdict of suicide while of unsound mind.

At Leicester on Wednesday, Marian Reynolds, of Manchester, was fined 27 and costs for selling Irish butter labelled as Danish butter. The prosecution was instituted at the instance of Harold Faber, the Danish agricultural commissioner in London, under the Merchandise Marks Act.

Addressing his constituents on Wednesday evening, in the Public Hall, Croydon, Mr. Cosmo Bonser, M.P., in reply to a vote of confidence in the Government and himself, derided the new Socialist programme issued at Newcastle, and specially warned artisans of the inevitable collapse of that "corner in labour," the eight hours movement.

The annual meeting of the Birmingham Women's Liberal Unionist Association was held on Wednesday evening at the Priory Rooms. Mrs. Herbert Chamberlain (the President) occupied the chair. Several speeches were delivered by members of the association, and Mr. Richardson (secretary of the London Association) gave an account on women's duties in politics.

Mr. Wilson Lloyd (the chairman) announced

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IMPERIAL DEPOSIT BANK as security for advances from £250 to £500 per annum, and at 5 per cent interest.—Apply for prospectus, which will give all particulars, to 18, Adam-street, Strand—ARTHUR S. G. DWICK, Manager.

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LONDON AND WESTMINSTER LOAN AND DISCOUNT COMPANY, Limited.—Advances of money on promissory notes, bills of exchange, and other securities, at moderate rates of interest for short or long periods, repayable at the convenience of the borrowers, on personal security, deposit, furniture, bill of lading, foreign or inland bills, and other securities, at the discretion of the directors. Prospectus, gratis, or sent on application to the Secretary, 65, St. Martin's Lane, Charing Cross.

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Novels, to be repaid.

Sir Henry James's Address.

Maiming Dumb Animals.

He next alluded to the maiming of dumb animals, the sending of threatening letters, and other outrages, which were not condemned by the Irish leaders. Quotations were next made by Sir Henry James from Sir George Cornwall Lewis's book as to the secret societies of Ireland. The learned counsel then referred to the character of the constitution of the Irish Republican Brotherhood, as set forth in the evidence. He asked, why could the members of the Fenian body was not brought before the Commissioners.—Sir James Hannen said it might have been introduced after Mr. Davitt left the Supreme Council.—Sir Henry James said that was so. No attempt had been made to produce the real constitution of the Fenian organisation. Sir James agreed that Mr. Davitt had practically conducted the case. The question was given by the supreme council of the Fenian body. The Court adjourned at four o'clock until Tuesday morning.

James Bailey, 19, and Sidney James Pocknall, 35, lightermen, and William Sturia, labourer, were indicted at the London Sessions for stealing a bottle of champagne, value 6s., the property of Anton Leveque. Mr. Poley presided; Mr. Purcell defended.—At one o'clock on the morning of October 28th, Inspector London, of the Thames police, saw two barges, one laden with cases of champagne, lashed together, passing up the river. He went on board, and examined the cargo. One of the cases broken open, and concealed in the burlap of the champagne. The prisoners declared that he must have put it there, as they knew nothing about it.—For the defence it was suggested that the robbery had been committed at the wharf by the men who unloaded the barge.—After some deliberation the jury convicted the prisoners, but recommended them to mercy.—Sergeant Francis proved two previous convictions against Bailey for similar offences. The Rev. Mr. Dudley, of St. Peter's, London, preached. Pocknall and Sturia good characters.—Mr. Purcell was asked to deal with the two men under the First Offenders Act. Mr. Warry sentenced Bailey to three months' hard labour, and allowed the other two prisoners to enter into their own recognizances to come up for judgment when called upon.

An extraordinary story, first published by the Vienna newspaper a few days ago and then generally disbelieved, has since been confirmed in every particular. A young man, calling himself Count Sándor Vay, who pretended to have fallen out with his family in Hungary, married last August a teacher at Klagenfurt, aged 27, the daughter of an inspector of woods and forests there. The marriage took place at a lonely farm in Hungary, a certain Father Lure officiating at the wedding ceremony. The newly-married couple lived together for some time, and afterwards visited the girl's parents in Klagenfurt, where the father-in-law was constantly fleeced by the alleged count. Quarrels arose, and ultimately it turned out that the young count's tales of himself were all inventions, the persons he referred to were imaginary, and that he was a convicted swindler. Something still remained, indeed unparalleled, soon came to light, and long it was found that the so-called count was, in reality, a woman of 36, the Countess Salvola Vay, daughter of the late colonel of Hlovedts, Count Ladislaus Vay, who, as long as he had only daughters, caused Sarolta to be dressed, and educated as a boy. When, however, a son had been born, she was accustomed to her boy's role, and was to be treated as a girl. All her life she had worn a male attire, and recently had appeared in the uniform of a Hlovedts soldier. She published a collection of poems under the name Sándor, and associated with young men, who were not in the secret, in many amusements. She was well known in Pesth, where she visited cafes in men's clothing, and drank and smoked with journalists and officers. From Pesth, where eccentricities of that sort are hardly a rarity, she disappeared about a year and a half ago, and she has not again heard of till her arrest, on the demand of her nominal father-in-law, at Klagenfurt. It is said that Father Lure was not a priest, and that the girl was in going through the form of marriage, only executed another eccentricity in order to procure money, of which she was in great need.

George Taylor, 20, refusing his address and

An Alleged Receiver.

At the Lambeth Police Court on Friday, Charles Hiffing, 38, living at Marigold-court, Bermondsey, was charged before Mr. Partridge with receiving silver and plated goods, clothing, and a large amount of other property, the proceeds of several burglaries.—Inspector Harvey, of the L. Division, stated that on the previous day three persons, Scott, Holland, and Tuck, were charged at this court with being concerned in burglaries and receiving a large quantity of stolen property. Whilst they were at the police station, something transpired which induced the witness, in company with Inspector Race, to go to No. 13, Marigold-court, where the prisoners were living. The house was open and searched, and B. entered. Witness and W. are police inspectors. There are three persons in custody for stealing articles of plate, and we are told you have some of the property in your house." She hesitated, but then said, "Who have you got?" Witness said, "Your nephew." She asked if he had told him to come there, and witness said he had not. She added that she had got nothing in the place. Witness told her that the house would be searched. She then said she had a few knives and forks that had been left with her to be cleaned. She went to a cupboard, and produced from there a silver spoon, a silver fork, a silver spoon, &c., since identified as part of the proceeds of a burglary at the house of a gentleman named Foulger. Inspector Race then said, "We want some pawntickets," and she, after a time, gave up a number. She was removed to Carter-street Station, where she was charged. She then said that a man who stuttered left the things at her place.—Inspector Race corroborated the evidence of the last witness. The prisoner handed him seventeen pawntickets, and said that was all she had. Witness said he was not satisfied, and should make a search. The prisoner then produced a silver spoon, a silver fork, and a silver spoon. All these tickets related to plate, jewellery, clothing, and other property, supposed to be portions of stolen property. Upon some of the silver and plated goods were the initials "H., T., " "A.G.H., and "F." Witness also found in the house a handsome marble clock. This the prisoner said at first was her property, and that she had had it four years. He told her he should take it away, upon which she said she had only had it about four months.—Mr. Partridge released the prisoner, and refused an application for bail. It may be noted that there is a large amount of property in the hands of the police at Carter-street Police Station for identification, and believed to be the proceeds of burglaries and housebreaking.

During the last sittings of the court an injunction was granted by Mr. Justice Chitty, on the motion of the Attorney-general at the relation of the Mersey Docks and Harbour Board, restraining the Manchester Ship Canal in the construction of their works from deviating from their plans as sanctioned by the Parliamentary committee. In alleged breach of that injunction they continued to deviate, and a sequestration was then moved for, but that motion stood over till the present day. On Monday, 10th inst., Mr. Justice Chitty informed that the plaintiff abandoned the motion, and the defendants asked for the costs of an abandoned action. The plaintiffs assented, and Mr. Justice Chitty granted the application.

At the Dalston Police Court on Friday before Mr. Horace Smith, the three men—Hudson, Heslop, and Wood—were charged on remand with obtaining a variety of articles and goods from country advertisers. Mr. Sims again appeared for the Treasury; and Mr. E. P. Willes defended. The additional evidence called included that of Mr. John Spence, of Poole, in Dorset, which had been manager to Godwin and Sons, pork butchers and grocers, of Poole. His evidence, as already stated, was that he received on September 11th, 1888, an order for a crozier and a printed billhead, purporting to come from Heslop, provision merchant, of Spencer-road, South Horney; and ordering two dozen pounds of sausages and some counter bills. The order was executed, and others up to the value of £17 2s. 9d. The goods were supplied on the faith of the printed billhead and the statement that Heslop was agent for Champion's vinegar. Subsequently a bill of exchange for £12 was sent by Heslop to Mr. C. C. Niet, and a cheque on the London and Procter shop, and a cheque on the London and Procter bank, were sent to him on account. —Mr. C. C. Shipman, a provision merchant, of Chichester, deposed that on the 28th November, 1888, he received a similar letter, requesting weekly or monthly supplies of sausages, as well as some special kind of pie. One or two orders were executed, but a communication through "Stabb's" reference. He got neither.—Mr. Charles Baker, farmer and poultry merchant, of Stoke-on-Trent, said he also advertised in a Staffordshire paper, and had an application from Frank Hudson for five ducks and a fowl. His bill, based on the faith of the billheads in question, he got no money.—Detective-sergeant Day, of the Division, said that he knew Hudson, and several times cautioned him against his methods of business. Hudson got his living by hawking sausages and poultry and pickles, &c., from house to house from a basket which he carried, yet always wrote to people from whom he obtained goods as though he kept a large establishment and horses and cows. He stated that Heslop's apartments on St. Albion-street, and found them in a deplorable condition, the wife ill, and the children lying in a neglected condition about the house. Mrs. Susan Bishop, Londeborough-road, Stoke Newington, said that Hudson lived in her house for some time, but never paid any rent. He appeared to be very poor, and she had occasion to speak to him about his children. He, however, received many letters, which caused her to be suspicious. After consultation with her husband she came to the conclusion that all was not right, and ordered that he should be arrested. Soon after this case was arrested.—Mr. Sims said he had other cases to bring before the court, but would now ask for a remand, in order to complete them.—This was granted.

In the grand hall on Friday night last, the Lord Mayor elected, Sir H. H. Isaac, the Lord Mayor-elect, Mr. J. H. B. Smith, the Chamberlain of the Court of Aldermen, was performed in the presence of a large number of the aldermen, common councilors, and a number of ladies and gentlemen.

The proceedings were conducted at one end of the great hall, which was already in a state of preparation for the pending festivities. The courtyard had been boarded and canopied so as to form a reception chamber, and all the corridors and approaches were bright with coloured drapery, and green with palms and ferns. The retiring Lord Mayor came in state from the Mansion House accompanied by his household staff, and after tea and luncheon had been served, he was followed by Sir James Whitehead, the Aldermen's Room, where Sir James Whitehead took his leave as president of the court, and a procession was then formed to the hall. When all were seated the antiquated ceremony of installation was commenced. The common crier having announced the purpose of the gathering, the town clerk administered the formal declaration of office, and the Lord Mayor surrendered his seat to the new chief magistrate. The chamberlain delivered the diamond sceptre to Sir J. Whitehead, who in turn handed it to the new Lord Mayor, while a salute of cannon, fireworks, and music was being presented. Afterward, the Lord Mayor received the congratulations of the whole corporation, the members of which passed his chair in the order of their official status.

An amusing adventure has befallen a provincial schoolmaster who went to Paris for the purpose of visiting the Exhibition. On arriving in the city he took a room in an hotel near the Centraux Markets, and on a chair near his bed he placed a portmanteau of fair size, in which there was a plump chicken, which he had brought to Paris for his own use. In his anxiety to see the city, the schoolmaster was negligent of his baggage, and was troubled all day about the address of the place. He wandered about the streets nearly half the night looking for his hostelry, but had to give up the search at last, and take a room in another establishment. Three days and three nights the schoolmaster was absent from his belongings, in which the meantime emitted an odour so unpleasant that the suspicions of the hotel people were aroused, and they asked the nearest policeman to step in and examine the luggage, in which they were sure had been deposited in the hotel. The officer, however, was not a "Ripper" himself. The inspector came and saw the chicken, which was extremely high, and, after a day's search, the erring owner of the decayed farmyard fowl was discovered in his new abode, and his long-lost property was restored to him.

On Thursday, at the Westminster County Court, the case of Cowing v. Redford was disposed of by his Honour Judge Bayley.—The plaintiff, a well-known singer living at Forest Hill, had been engaged to sing at the Forest Hill Theatre, his profession being, being Miss Harriette Redford, and she sued Mr. Redford, the manager of the Nana Opera Company, for two weeks' wages under an agreement. The plaintiff's case was that she entered into an agreement on the 12th August last to go on tour with the Nana Opera Company. It was agreed that she was to attend rehearsals until the 15th of August, when the company was to start for the provinces. She attended about twelve rehearsals, and no complaint was made, but on the 24th of August she was refused admission to the Globe Theatre, where the company was rehearsing. She refused to go away without an explanation, and Mr. Coventry, the stage manager, came to her and said she was not wanted any longer, but if she would give him back the £200 she had advanced him, he would let her go. That she refused to do, telling him that it would not pay her travelling expenses, and, failing to get her money, she brought this action. The defendant contended that he was not the person who should have been sued, but his Honour held that as the agreement was signed by him he was properly sued.—Defendant then said that she was discharged because she was continually late, and that she was always laughing with other girls when she ought to have been attending to her duties. She was complained of several times, but to no purpose. Besides it was not usual to pay for rehearsals.—The plaintiff said she was never complained to, and was only late once, and that was owing to an accident.—His Honour: I think the plaintiff is entitled to a judgment in her favour. Do you find, then, that she is bound to attend rehearsals?—Defendant:—His Honour: No; you have not shown she was incompetent. There will be judgment for the plaintiff for the full amount, with costs.

"Baron" Bruno Falver Krantz, who described himself as an inventor, living at Hilside, Mill-road, Hampstead, and Henri de Bogarts, an inventor of Mill-road, were charged, on remand, before Mr. Montagu Williams, at the Thames Police Court of the following day, with obtaining £10 15s. under false and fraudulent representations. Six persons were charged on behalf of the Treasury. Sir George Knapp, a commission agent, of Maidment-street, Burdett-road, had been in Krantz's service for eight weeks. The prisoner handed him a cheque for £8 15s. The cheque was drawn on Messrs. Adams, and made payable to Henri de Bogarts. Knapp's sister cashed the cheque, and he gave the money to Krantz, who after that had drawn three other cheques for £10, £10, £10, and £25, all drawn on Lloyd's Bank, Piccadilly. Having cashed them, Knapp handed the money to Krantz, who paid him his wages out of it, and £5 on account of his father, who was to have £100 a year for teaching his sons. When the prisoners were arrested by Sergeants Bradshaw and Gibbons, a memorandum was found on one of them to purchase the Albert Palace for £25,000,000. The prisoners' pawntickets were also found on Krantz. In the charge against Krantz, it was said "Can't it be settled by paying the money?" Both admitted they had done wrong, and had no money to meet the cheques.—Evidence having been given as to the dishonoured cheques, Elizabeth Adams, 33, St. James's-place, hotelkeeper, said she had known a person calling himself Colonel Perry. In October she wanted a sum of money, and spoke to Colonel Perry. She went to 10, Mount St. Stephen, where she saw Perry, who introduced Krantz as "Baron." Krantz then saw Krantz at a private office, and said, "I have called to see Colonel Perry." Krantz replied that Perry was not at home. He also added when told that Colonel Perry had promised to get her the money to pay off the mortgage that Perry never had the power to do so. He could do it, and he would do it. She asked for £25,000, and he gave her that effect, and he did so. The prisoner showed her the Albert Palace, and said, "I have paid £25,000 of my money, and I am going to rent it to a company. This will clear me out of all my money, but I am still expecting a large sum of money for a patent I have sold for £250,000. I have a similar palace in Paris. I don't want money, but only the accommodation of your bank, as I have to pay in several hundreds of pounds which I am expecting." She was asked to produce those cheques until the money is paid into the bank. She then offered me an appointment of a restaurant at the palace at £50 a year, and he promised to lend me £4,500. Believing his statement, I drew a number of cheques on Lloyd's Bank, and Krantz told me to make out the cheques. Krantz wrote out a lot of the cheques, and on the 9th of October I gave him ten cheques. On the following day I gave him four more cheques, which he signed. On the 11th of October, I wrote a communication from my bank, and I wrote a letter to Krantz. On the 14th of October, I went and saw Krantz. Krantz was very much worried by one of the cheques I gave you being passed in, and I hope you will see about it at once." He said, "It's a mistake. I was anxious to meet the cheque, and I took the money to pay the person who held the cheque."

After some further evidence the case was adjourned.

Albion, Santa Anita, to, or James, solicitor Cambridge Mansions, Marylebone. Mr. Vaughan was charged under a warrant before Mr. Vaughan at Bow-street Police Court on Friday with conspiring to defraud the Bankruptcy Trust by failing to disclose the trustees all his property, and failing to deliver all property under his control and books relating to his affairs. — Formal evidence of arrest only was given by Detective-constable Goulding, and the defendant was remanded without bail.

The gas committee of the Leeds Corporation refuse to come to terms with the gas stokers numbering six hundred, whose notices expire on Monday, on which day unless a settlement arrived at the men will leave the works in a body. The men, who apply for a higher rate of wages on eight hours' work, have joined the Union. On Thursday afternoon a deputation from the strikers had an interview with Messrs. Arthur the manager, when it was arranged that the should meet him with further propositions.

A terrible murder was committed on Thursday at a place called Corkan, near Rathcorath, about six miles from Mullingar. The victim and the perpetrator were women, and were aunt and niece both being named Anne Corwick. The niece was suffering from some form of mania, and in a paroxysm of madness she inflicted such frightful injuries on her aunt as to cause almost instantaneous death. The niece was about to be removed to lunatic asylum.

On Tuesday at Tanger some men, who are believed to have been Moors, entered the house of the Marquis Galletti Cambiagno, the Italian chargé d'affaires, during his excellency's absence and laid hands upon all the money and valuables they could find. The marquis returning home while the robbers were still on the premises, was set upon and beaten by the burglars. His excellency is laid up from the effects of the injuries which he received. The Moorish authorities are taking active steps to discover and punish the robbers.

The forty-fourth body, which was brought up on Wednesday night, has been identified as that of Thomas Bradshaw, aged 18, of Fenton. The remains were fearfully charred and "blown away," and identification by the deceased's brothers could only be made by the corduroy trousers and lace-up boots the deceased was wearing previously. A jacket ripped to rags was brought up from the debris, and found to contain a watch, which had stopped at a quarter to four, and was completely smashed. The jacket was recognised as having been worn by Bradshaw. The inquest was opened on Thursday by Mr. A. A. Flint, coroner, and adjourned until November 19th. The exploration in the colliery is still very difficult, on account of the gas, and slow progress is being made. Another stopping had to be put in the Cockshead seam. The funeral of Steel at the Williams took place on Thursday at Longton Cemetery.

On the arrival of a train from Liverpool at the Kentish Town Station of the Midland Railway on Wednesday evening, Benjamin Smith, ticket-collector, on going to a third-class compartment, found an elderly man in a recumbent position dead. There was a quantity of blood on the floor, and also a five-chambered flat-top revolver loaded in four chambers, the fifth having been discharged. The guard, on being called, stated that shortly after leaving Bedford the train was stopping at the station of Luton and Lord. He heard a report, but though at the time it was a fog-signal. The body of the deceased was taken to the nearest mortuary and it has not yet been identified. The deceased is about 5ft. 6in. in height, of fair complexion and with three fingers of the left hand missing. He was well dressed, and, besides wearing jewelry, had over 45 in money in his possession.

Mr. H. Campbell Bannerman addressed meeting of his constituents at Dunfermline on Thursday night. He said they were all aware of the fact that he was about to fight the battle of Liberalism in West Fife, and he thought that the cause would suffer either in Perthshire or the Stirling Burghs a little delay, and he had resolved to take the invitation ad vivandum. (Cheers.) A dissolution was not, in his opinion, at hand, and he did not believe in forcing one. The Government owed its existence to those to whom the word dissolution was a difficult word, and as people were so certain that it had not to others, and the present Parliament would hang on as long as possible. He rejoiced at the reforms which had been made in county government in England and Scotland, but it did not add to the dignity of our institutions to find such revolutions occurring and assisted by men who made no secret of the fact that they made the change for some selfish criticism. The speech of Mr. W. H. Smith at Glasgow, he said every atom of trust in the people which had been introduced into the local government bills sprang from the Liberals.

At Thursday's meeting of the Middlesex Council, held at the Guildhall, Broad Sanctuary, Westminster, the Earl of Strafford, the Lord Chamberlain, presided, and Mr. R. W. Little, M.P., was elected chairman for the year. He had carried out the duties of the office with great ability and courtesy. The county of Middlesex was different to any other in the country, being an almost new county, seeing that the county of London was taken from it.—Mr. Buss seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously and cheers.—Mr. Little, who was received with cheers, said he was pleased to hear the remarks of his old friend the Earl of Strafford and his new friend, Mr. Buss. When first elected to this office he was one of the largest amount of work which would fall upon him, but that had been done through the assistance of the officers of the council. He was very glad that there was no party on the council. (Hear, hear.) There was no political party, or party of any kind, and he was also pleased to say that up to this, the first statutory meeting of the council, there had been no feeling. He had tried, and he thought had succeeded, to treat the party. (Hear, hear.)—On the motion of the chairman, seconded by Mr. H. R. Williams, Mr. Montague Sharp, J.P., was re-elected vice-chairman.

In the Queen's Bench Division, before the Lord Chief Justice and a special jury, the case of *Hayfield v. Mowlem and Co.* came on for hearing. It was an action to recover damages for personal injuries to the plaintiff, a woman, who was injured by the negligence, and alleged contributory negligence, of Mr. Kemp, Q.C., and Mr. Cohen appeared for the plaintiff; Mr. Crump, Q.C., and Mr. Hankey appeared for the defendants.—The plaintiff in October last year was driving a van drawn by a pony along the Victoria Embankment, near Westminster Bridge. The pony was in need of repair, and, as it was passing a steam roller, the driver was frightened the pony. He got out of the van and led the pony, when, according to his account, there were two more puffs of steam, which again frightened it, and he was thrown over some poles and sustained injuries which kept him in the hospital for some time. The questions in this case were whether the defendants were guilty of negligence in the management of the steam roller, whether the steam roller itself was a nuisance, whether the plaintiff himself had been guilty of contributory negligence, and, if so, in what proportion. The jury, after a short deliberation, found verdict for the plaintiff for £200. They thought there had been negligence in the management of the engine, and that plaintiff had not been guilty of any contributory negligence, but they could not agree whether the steam roller was a nuisance or not in itself.—

LORD SALISBURY.

In the Court of Queen's Bench, before Mr. Justice Field and Mr. Justice Manisty, the hearing of a motion by Mr. O'Brien for a new trial of his action against Lord Salisbury was commenced on Wednesday. Mr. Gully, Q.C., Mr. Highnam, Q.C., Mr. J. F. Leese, and Mr. Anderson appeared for the plaintiff; while the Solicitor-general, Mr. Ambrose, Q.C., Mr. Danckwerts, and Mr. Robert Cecil represented the defendant. The action arose out of a speech delivered by Lord Salisbury, in which his lordship, criticised by a speech of Mr. O'Brien, for his lordship, the words used were a deliberate incitement to boycotting, outrage, and murder. In opening the case Mr. Gully, Q.C., held that Mr. O'Brien, though recommending the Irish people to practise boycotting, had refrained from using any words that could rightly be interpreted as inciting to murder. Sir Edward Clarke, the Solicitor-general, on behalf of Lord Salisbury, expressed a confident hope that their lordships would not disturb the verdict of the Manchester jury in favour of the defendant. Lord Salisbury did not put into Mr. O'Brien's mouth words which he did not use, but expressed to his hearers that the words which he used were not words which Mr. O'Brien had used, as he said that Mr. O'Brien had spoken in words not as crude as he had used, but in terms perfectly distinct. Lord Salisbury's language was a comment upon Mr. O'Brien's speech, inasmuch as it was a description of it. That description the jury thought was one which any fair and reasonable man was entitled to make, having such language as Mr. O'Brien had used before him. If that was the fact there was an end of the case. There were three parts of Mr. O'Brien's speech. The first part recommended something which Mr. O'Brien said was the best way of getting the part of the speech which Lord Salisbury spoke before them. Mr. O'Brien did not ask the people to continue doing something. He was denouncing them as recreants in the cause, and complaining that something had not been done. That could not refer to boycotting, as there were 278 people boycotted in Tipperary in the middle of the year 1887. He agreed that outrages had not happened in Tipperary, and that was what made the plaintiff's speech so serious. The words about the air of Sieve-a-Mon being unwholesome to land grabbers, meant that something was to be done to put an end to the robbing and thieving in Tipperary, and that Mr. O'Brien was not going to put particulars as to the way they should be treated, and appealed to the manhood and instincts of his hearers. Was that an invitation to the shopkeeper to refuse to sell his goods? Although Mr. O'Brien denounced crime, his standard of crime was different to that which they were accustomed to accept.—At the conclusion of the Solicitor-general's speech the court adjourned.

Mr. David Gray, a solicitor, residing at 41 Roschell road, Wandsworth, appeared to a summons at the Wandsworth Police Court for assaulting Alfred Harrey, who was employed by the bailiff of the Wandsworth County Court to distrain upon goods at the residence of the defendant for rent. Mr. Russell Biggs, barrister, defended.—The complainant said on the 10th inst. he sent the defendant's house and was unable to obtain admission. The defendant climbed over a doorway, which led from the front to the back garden, and returned the same way. Witness tried to follow, but the defendant struck him a severe blow on the knuckles with a stick, causing him to drop. Another man, who was with witness, climbed over and took possession.—Mr. Biggs: The defendant has obtained an injunction to prevent you from proceeding with the distress, and you have been compelled to give up possession of the premises.—Mr. Biggs said in addition to the injunction, two actions were pending for an illegal distress. Mr. Gray was a solicitor of some standing and respectfully connected, and considering that any distress would be illegal, the doors were kept locked. Mr. Gray was of opinion that the complainant, in attempting to enter the house by climbing the gate, committed an unwarrantable trespass, and he rapped his knuckles in order to make him desist. He conscientiously believed that he had perfect right to prevent a man from making an illegal entry.—The magistrate: The assault was not one of an aggravated character.—Mr. Mead: I do not suppose you share your client's opinion that a man has no right to go over a side gate when the distress was legal?—Mr. Biggs: No; but the distress in this case was illegal.—Mr. Mead said it was not for him to decide whether the distress was legal or illegal, but in the event of it being legal the complainant had a perfect right to get over the side gate and to take possession.—Mr. Gray said that was wrong in violating the law. If a man wishes to resist a distress he must abide by the laws of the game. The defendant would have to pay a fine of 10s., or seven days in goal.

An extraordinary general meeting of the proprietors of the East and West India Dock Company was held on Wednesday at Winchester House, Old Broad-street, E.C., for the purpose of considering the amended scheme of arrangements between the company and its creditors, which had been filed in accordance with the provisions of the Railway Companies Act, 1867. The scheme has been before the shareholders for some time, and its details have been made public.—Mr. Hankey, who occupied the chair, said that it was necessary that the scheme now proposed should be approved by the shareholders, the four-fifths of the value of the claims of all creditors, and that it should have the approval of a majority of the proprietors at a general meeting. Then it was necessary that it should be passed by the Court of Chancery. The directors had had to face very determined opposition, but they had succeeded in obtaining the assent of creditors to the extent of £3,000,000. The terrible strike had caused some delay; but, in spite of everything, they had now got the assent of the requisite proportion of every class of creditors, and in some cases of very many more than the requisite proportion. The amount of the debenture debt was £2,345,000; it being made up of £1,728,100 debenture stock, £1,034,400 mortgage, and £284,900 charges. What the future profits would be he could not possibly know, but some of the heavy charges which now weighed upon them would disappear year by year. After the scheme was passed their share of the profits would increase, and the prospect generally was now more hopeful. With reference to the recent strike, as the new scheme of the docks only came into operation on the 1st day of November, he believed that his credit as the shareholders' accurate information, but the directors had been doing all they possibly could to compensate for the increased rate of wages by organising their labour staff on the one hand, and by raising their charges on the other, wherever those enhanced charges could be judiciously imposed. The strike might have some effect upon their profits in the present half-year, but he did not think that eventually it would affect the position of the company. With regard to the scheme, it was, he thought, a very wise and judicious one to reconcile a number of conflicting interests. Various shareholders commented, for the most part favourably, upon the scheme, and it was finally approved unanimously, amid applause.

The Stock Exchange was closed on Saturday, it being Lord Mayor's Day, so that there was no business to report.